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Northeastern
Area



Urban and Community Forestry Program

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Status Report

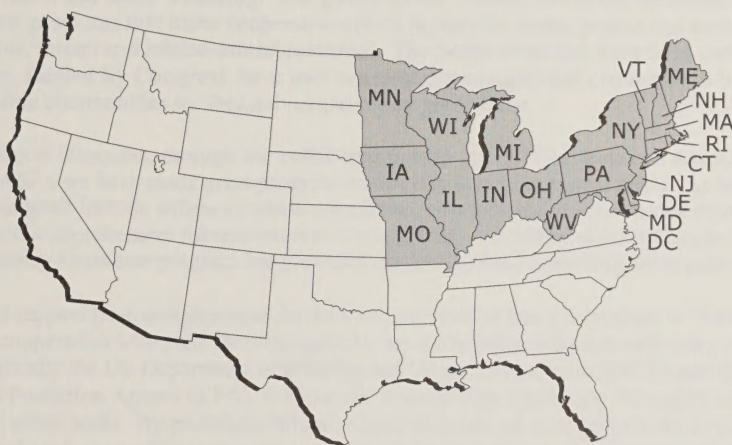
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Urban and Community Forestry

Accomplishments in 1999

USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area



Bringing Forestry to the People

Edited by Melissa Keeley, at the the Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry located at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with Phillip Rodbell at the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry.

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Executive Summary

Fiscal year 1999 ushered forth a tremendous new era of partnership and accessible technology in the Northeastern Area's Urban and Community Forestry Program. Together with our partners in State and local government and a strengthening nonprofit sector, we expanded efforts to integrate urban natural resource management with urban growth issues to improve the quality of life and the environment for urban dwellers and village residents alike.

Trees, forests, and related natural resources are the basic tools of the program. When managed appropriately, these resources can contribute substantially to the wellbeing and long-term sustainability of urban and rural communities. Benefits include clean air and water, habitats for wild creatures, usable open space, and a visually pleasing environment. Increasingly, urban residents are advocating for "green" infrastructure in their communities and planning for greenspace acquisition and long-term maintenance. Our messages are bearing fruit!

Computer modeling tools like American Forest's CITYGreen software are gaining broad acceptance by local government, increasing awareness of the value of land use planning and management. Community tree groups are playing a more active role in Council chambers to assure funding for tree maintenance and green corridors throughout their communities. And importantly, State governments have multiplied their investments in these efforts, building staff capacity and making resources available to their community partners on the ground.

Urban and community forestry assistance is delivered primarily in partnership with state forestry agencies. Funding from Congress to the Forest Service is pro-rated regionally according to population and the number of communities. Of the funds coming to the Northeastern Area, a portion is used to sustain a federal technical assistance program and support Congressional initiatives and unique demonstration projects; a portion is focused on areas of need defined in collaboration with State and local partners; and the remainder is distributed pro rata to state forestry agencies to support shared objectives at the community level.

Forest Service personnel in three field offices of the Northeastern Area provide administrative support and technical assistance to the twenty northeastern area states and the District of Columbia. This includes oversight for special initiatives by Congress to address specific urban natural resource restoration issues such as Chicago Wilderness or the Northeast Pennsylvania Forestry Program. Similarly, it includes a pilot project initiated in the Department of Agriculture known as the Urban Resources Partnership (URP), designed to facilitate cooperation among federal agencies in addressing urban natural resource problems at the neighborhood level. Six cities in the northeast have been designated as URP cities.

Another source of federal urban and community forestry funds is provided to the states through the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC). This group, which advises the Secretary of Agriculture, awards competitive grants to communities and groups that are addressing key national issues relating to urban natural resources management. Ten of these grants were awarded throughout the Northeastern Area in fiscal year 1999.

In total, the Northeastern Area distributed close to \$20 million in grants in fiscal year 1999. This includes funds to combat the Asian longhorned beetle and respond to communities affected by the 1998 ice storm. With our partners in State government these funds provided direct technical and financial support to more than 5,300 municipalities (37% of incorporated communities in the twenty Northeastern Area states). The program produced significant accomplishments addressing a wide range of urban issues and involving more than 150,000 hours of training and volunteer labor.

America's Urban Natural Resources

Investment in appropriate management of our natural resources contributes to meeting the many challenges facing America's urban communities. Natural resources include air, water, soil, vegetation, and wildlife. Integration of these resources into the planning for the revitalization and development of our communities is an opportunity to address the social, economic, and environmental health of all Americans in a comprehensive manner.

Education, financial investment, and an active citizenry are essential to realize the benefits natural resources provide. Comprehensive natural resource management is an opportunity to assure sustainable community revitalization and development.

Managing natural resources:

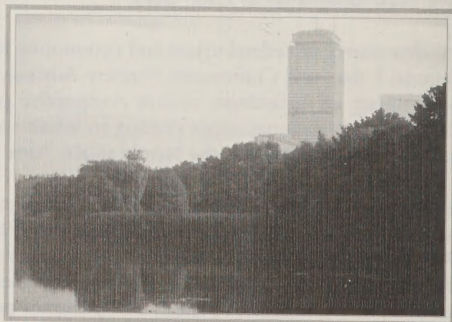
- ★ Improves Water Quality
- ★ Improves Air Quality
- ★ Reduces Pollution
- ★ Improves Community Health



- ★ Improves Stormwater Management
- ★ Reduces Infrastructure Costs
- ★ Reduces Flooding



- ★ Leads to Comprehensive Land Use and Management
- ★ Promotes Sustainable Development
- ★ Increases Recreational Opportunities



Urban Forest Stewardship

The vitality of our communities is strongly dependent on the quality of the natural environment – the green infrastructure. Efforts to plant and care for urban trees and forests contribute to neighborhood stability, provide a sense of belonging, and sustain our communities as desirable, healthy places to live, work and play.

To benefit from urban forest resources, communities must adopt effective management strategies and include stewardship in all aspects of community development.

Urban trees and forests:



- ★ Reduce home heating and cooling costs by up to 30 percent, potentially saving the nation almost \$1.5 billion a year
- ★ Increase the value of property by up to 20 percent



- ★ Reduce stormwater discharge by up to 40 percent



- ★ Increase community pride
- ★ Purify the air and reduce particulate airborne pollution by up to 80 percent

The Northeastern Area

The Northeastern Area of the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, provides technical and financial support for urban and community forestry projects and promotes natural resources management as a means to address the economic, social, and environmental needs in communities. In addition to Urban and Community Forestry, several other USDA Forest Service program areas, such as Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Conservation Education, and Economic Action, support urban and community forestry projects. All program areas promote partnerships among federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as private and nonprofit organizations, to improve the quality of life of the people and communities in the region.

The Northeastern Area encompasses approximately 30 million acres of urban forests in a region that is home to more than 114 million people. USDA Forest Service technical and managerial staff members are located in three field offices that serve three geographic regions. This decentralized staffing structure facilitates communication with state-level counterparts and regional approaches to problem solving.



New York and the New England states are served by the Durham, NH Field Office. The Morgantown, WV Field Office works with the six states and the District of Columbia in the Mid-Atlantic region, and the St. Paul, MN Field Office serves the seven Mid-western states. With restructuring in 2000 there will also be a USDA Forest Service urban forestry specialist located in Chicago, Washington DC, New York and Philadelphia to coordinate federal activities and initiatives.

Three Centers of Excellence have been developed - the Midwest Center for Urban and Community Forestry located on the campus of the University of Minnesota, St. Paul; the Mid-Atlantic Center based at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia; and the Northeast Center, based at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. These centers support the technology transfer component of the Northeastern Area Urban and Community Forestry Program, and partner with State agencies, Forest Service research, universities, and conservation organizations.

In addition to providing leadership and financial and technical assistance to states and organizations in order to manage natural resources effectively in populated areas, the Northeastern Area provides a national and regional context that helps the states to respond to natural disasters and crises as well as emerging issues.

The Urban and Community Forestry Program is driven by a periodic assessment of urban issues and opportunities identified by a cross-section of individuals. Rapid growth and development in metropolitan regions and small communities and the negative impacts of that growth on forest, air, and water quality have been identified as key issues to be addressed by natural resource managers in urban areas. These issues are the focus for the national strategy entitled *Vital Communities Through Healthy Ecosystems*. The strategy is implemented in cooperation with the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, state foresters, and other partners at the federal, state, and local level.

At the regional level the Northeastern Area has just completed the period encompassed by the *Urban Forestry Five-Year Plan, 1995-1999* and has prepared the first draft of its next strategic plan. The current plan emphasized an improved quality of life through comprehensive natural resource stewardship and provided a framework in which the twenty Northeastern Area states and the District of Columbia participated while maintaining autonomy to identify, prioritize, and develop their own plans.

Effective, long-term solutions depend on close cooperation among government agencies and the public being served to meet the economic, social, and environmental needs in all communities. Within the Northeastern Area problems are identified and resolved at the local level with the state and federal government providing technical and financial support as needed.

The technical assistance provided to state urban and community forestry programs includes assessing and monitoring the health of our urban forests; guidance in the creation and restoration of urban green space; media relations and outreach; land-use planning and organizational development; disaster response; and tree inventory and database management.



Vision

The vision for urban and community forestry in the Northeastern Area has remained essentially constant since 1990, "...to achieve community sustainability and an enhanced quality of life through stewardship of urban and community forests and related natural resources." Implied in this statement is full participation by all those who affect or are affected by decisions relating to natural resources and their management in urban areas. This reflects a fundamental shift in responsibility from government to individual citizens to accept a key role for the stewardship of critical natural systems that sustain our collective wellbeing.

Natural systems and processes provide an incalculable service to society in terms of mitigating air and water pollution, reducing flooding, providing abundant clean water, and maintaining essential biological diversity. These natural systems require management and care in populated areas if they are to continue to function. The responsibility for management is complex and must be shared among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and citizens from all walks of life.

The goals of the Urban and Community Forestry Program are to effect change within the various agencies, organizations, and individuals through awareness, outreach, partnerships, and comprehensive management. The focus is on ecological health in combination with social and economic wellbeing as they contribute to healthy and sustainable communities. Fiscal year 1999 is the final year for the current 1995-1999 strategic plan; thus, these goals will likely change as issues and opportunities are revisited during the 2000-2004 update.



Our vision is of high quality, sustainable communities, which is achieved through comprehensive urban natural resources stewardship by a committed society.

Goals

Awareness

Promote an understanding of stewardship. Emphasize the social, economic, and environmental values of trees, forests, and related natural resources in cities and communities to the public and others.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

Expand program participation by involving minorities, people of color, American Indian nations, people with disabilities, and under-served populations in all aspects of urban and community forestry.

Partnerships

Create and maintain partnerships that strengthen cooperative working relationships and integrate diverse activities among public and private agencies and organizations at federal, state and local levels.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

Implement an ecological approach that integrates biophysical, social, and economic considerations to support healthy, sustainable communities.

Program Components

Since 1978, the Northeastern Area Urban and Community Forestry Program has funded federal, state, and local natural resource management programs through direct and indirect grants and technical assistance. The Program for 1999 consisted of eight components. Accomplishments are presented in this order:

1. State Grants
2. Focused Federal Assistance
3. Field Offices
4. Centers of Excellence
5. Urban Resources Partnerships (URPs)
6. National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) Grants
7. Special Projects
8. Congressional Initiatives

1. State Grants

Authorized through Section 9, Urban and Community Forestry Assistance, of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (PL 95-313), as amended by PL 101-624, the Forest Service distributes funds to State forestry agencies in accordance with criteria established in partnership with the National Association of State Foresters. The States deliver funding and technical assistance to communities and organizations at the local level, based on a strategic plan developed with concurrence of the Forest Service.

Each state develops an annual program narrative that defines how they will utilize federal funds to meet state and local needs and priorities. Federal funding is monitored and evaluated on a yearly basis, with formal program reviews occurring every five years. Annual narrative reports are produced that relate annual accomplishments to the goals and objectives in each state's strategic plan. Additionally, states produce a statistical report as part of the Congressionally mandated Performance Measurement Accountability System (PMAS).

PMAS tracks the level of activity in each state. Performance is measured by the amount of technical assistance, outreach to under-served communities, volunteer and training hours provided, and the resulting progression of municipal programs in the state from project-focused programs to formative, developed or ultimately, sustained programs. The "Performance Highlights" presented in this status report include the total number of communities, total number assisted this year, total training hours, federal grant amount, and state and local matching funds.

2. Focused Federal Assistance

Each year, the Northeastern Area sets aside funds off the top of the Area allocation from Washington to target, or focus, resources and technical assistance on specific areas of need defined in collaboration with state agency partners. Each state is allotted up to three grants of \$35,000 each, one or all of which can be in partnership with nonprofit organizations or adjacent state agencies. Multi-state proposals are preferred.

3. Field Offices

The three Field Offices of the Northeastern Area host a complement of managerial and technical staff that provide regional leadership and guidance to state and local partners. Each office maintains specialists in urban forestry, forest health, forest stewardship, economic action, and information management and analysis, that form working groups to address regional issues and natural disaster response, and produce regional and area-wide reports and publications.

4. Centers of Excellence

The three Centers of Excellence in urban and community forestry based in St. Paul, Philadelphia and Amherst, Massachusetts, support the technology transfer component of the Federal Program. Center directors collaborate with state agencies, Forest Service research staff, universities, and conservation organizations to develop demonstration projects, training opportunities, and technical reports.

5. Urban Resources Partnerships

The Urban Resources Partnership (URP) is an initiative of the US Department of Agriculture that makes federal resources available directly to community-based and community-driven environmental projects in under-served neighborhoods of select metropolitan areas. At least seven federal agencies, including the USDA Forest Service and Natural Resource Conservation Service, are providing funds and on-site technical assistance to education and restoration efforts in 13 cities throughout the country. The Northeastern Area serves six of these cities, including Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Buffalo, and East St. Louis.

6. National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC)

NUCFAC is the official advisory body to the Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture. The Council works to establish sustainable urban and community forests by encouraging communities of all sizes to manage and protect their natural resources for current and future generations. NUCFAC has established a national Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program that supports urban and community forestry activities with a national impact. The Northeastern Area administers the grants distributed in the 20 states and District of Columbia.

7. Special Projects

In collaboration with the Washington Office of the Forest Service, the Northeastern Area initiates and/or guides the development of demonstration projects of national significance. These projects are related directly to urban forestry, but are often multi-disciplinary in approach, combining resources from several federal funding sources to demonstrate the value of comprehensive natural resource management.

8. Congressional Initiatives

Several congressional initiatives were funded in fiscal year 1999 intended to target resources in specific districts to improve the quality of urban life and the environment, while increasing access to educational opportunities through expanded federal, state, and local partnerships.

Connecticut

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Approximately 80% of Connecticut's citizens live in urban or suburban environments. The urban forest of Connecticut was in decline until the advent of the Urban Forestry Assistance Program. The technical assistance provided by the Department of Environmental Protection Division of Forestry, University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System and the Connecticut Urban Forest Council through the financial assistance provided by the USDA Forest Service is crucial to the continued success of this program into the next millennium.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	169
Communities Assisted	120
Training Hours	2,476
Federal Support	\$204,070
State and Local Matching	\$324,243

Partnerships

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension continue to seek new partners. Representatives of 18 towns, including 3 new towns, attended this year's **Meskwaka Training** for citizen volunteers at Connecticut College in New London.

Meskwaka has trained over 140 volunteers in the past 7 years. Graduates of this program play an active role in the policy making and management of their communities' urban forestry programs.

Program staff have conducted presentations for the fledgling **nonprofit tree board in Milford**. The group, formed this year, is interested in inventorying Milford's tree resources, as well as in conducting educational programs for their fellow citizens and establishing an annual Arbor Day program at the city's schools.

Awareness

The Department of Environmental Protection Division of Forestry implemented a program to train state park and municipal tree workers in basic tree care. The one-day course includes training on basic tree physiology, planting, pruning, insects and disease, and hazard tree identification and management. 56 State Park workers have already been trained through this program.

The Connecticut Tree Wardens Association has instituted a "Certified" **Tree Wardens program** to further the education and professionalism of Connecticut's tree wardens. This year, the initial class of 35 tree wardens received six days of training to obtain their certification.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

Over the past year, two pocket parks were created in distressed communities in Connecticut. In **Bridgeport** and **Windham**, pocket parks with trees, picnic tables and game tables were established. Green spaces are welcome additions to these neighborhoods, both of which have large minority and elderly populations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

An outdoor classroom was created at the **Betances School in Hartford**. Trees for the project were provided by the **Knox Park Foundation** and students at the predominantly Hispanic school cared for the trees. The project also included the installation of a playscape and a butterfly garden.

The urban forestry program continues to work with the **Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Equity Program** to identify communities and programs that could benefit from a community forestry program. In the next fiscal year, assistance will be given to community groups in **Bridgeport** and **Hartford** to reclaim derelict parks.

Colleen Murphy-Dunning is the new Yale/Urban Resources Initiative representative on the Connecticut Urban Forest Council. **The Yale Urban Resources Initiative** continues to work closely with neighborhood groups and the City of New Haven Parks Department on community forestry projects.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

The town of **Brookfield** completed a "Park Tree Master Plan" for Cadigan Park.

The town of **Bristol's** beautification committee conducted a street tree inventory utilizing the volunteer training methods developed at the **Forest Service Center for Urban Forestry at University of Massachusetts**.



A reclaimed pocket park in Waterbury, Connecticut

Delaware

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The Urban and Community Forestry Program assists cities and towns with proper planning, management, and maintenance of trees, forests, and other natural resources. The protection of the state's tree resources is essential as Delaware's communities expand and grow.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	82
Communities Assisted	43
Training Hours	575
Federal Support	\$166,621
State and Local Matching	\$166,000

Partnerships

The Delaware Department of Agriculture Forest Service in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and the Forest Service Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum was awarded a Northeastern Area focus-funding grant. With these funds, the partnership is developing a database to document, map, and substantiate program progress and to garner support and recognition of the value of community forestry within each state.

The database will enable the program to conduct in-depth analyses, public

relations and communication efforts. This demonstration project will benefit urban and community forestry programs at all levels by enhancing their ability to develop and implement program strategies.

Awareness

A new urban forester was hired to provide urban forestry information and resources to Delaware communities and counties. This individual will develop guidelines for comprehensive forestry plans and a technical manual about urban forestry practices for distribution throughout the state.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

Knollwood is an historic community built in the 1920's for workers of the local Citisteel USA Plant. The community suffers from severe urban blight. In cooperation with New Castle County, Community Housing Inc., PNC Bank, and Citisteel USA, the Delaware Urban and Community Forestry Program has prepared a redevelopment plan for the area. The plan includes improvements to capitalize on the social and environmental benefits that trees can bring to a community. Citisteel USA and the Delaware Urban and Community Forestry Program will supply trees for the project.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

The Delaware Urban and Community Forestry Program is working with the Kent County Parks and Recreation Department and the Kent County Poly Tech High School to develop a natural resource inventory. The project will map five open space land parcels using a

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

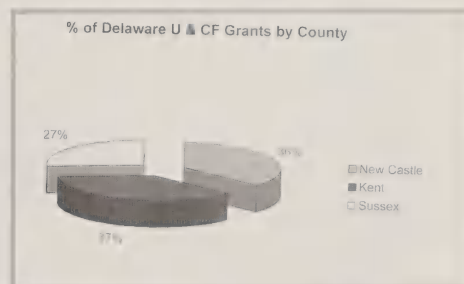
Global Positioning System (GPS) to gather information that will be used for management of natural resources within the county. With this information and additional funds from several Urban and Community Forestry grants, the county has begun to reforest open spaces and eliminate ineffectual maintenance practices.

The Delaware Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and the Delaware Urban and Community Forestry Program continue to provide grant opportunities and federal assistance to the private and public sectors throughout the state to maintain forests and other natural resources. In 1999, **11 cost share grants totaling \$33,325.00** were awarded to communities for tree planting and maintenance and for ecosystem based management projects throughout the state. These projects will benefit approximately 25,000 people within the cities of Claymont, Delaware City, Dover, Newark and Wilmington.

1. The Grant Entry Form records information on each grant award including financial data, the organization receiving the grant, and grant contacts.

2. The second half of the Grant Entry Form also allows for the identification of the geographic region of each grant.

3. The Assists Record Form records the number of assists the program makes to organizations and partners as well as the community in which the assist occurred.



4. This Chart is one example of the output from a report generated by this grant tracking database.

District of Columbia

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The District of Columbia Urban Forestry Program enabled the participation of volunteers and organizations working with the District of Columbia government and the Urban Forestry Council of Washington, DC to improve the management of the city's natural resources.

Performance Highlights

Number of Neighborhoods	75
Neighborhoods Assisted	68
Training Hours	1,000
Federal Support	\$150,000
Local Matching	\$300,000

Partnerships

The Dutch Elm Disease Control Project began its second year, with funding and technical assistance through the Forest Service Cooperative Forest Health Protection Program. The project is a partnership between the Department of Public Works, the USDA Forest Service, Cooperative Extension, and the National Park Service. The project will help lower the incidence of Dutch Elm Disease and reduce the rate of loss to the disease.

Awareness

The Trees and Landscape Division **planted over 3000 street trees** in neighborhoods city-wide. Volunteers joined in partnership with the city in the

care and maintenance of neighborhood trees. Volunteers also distributed brochures that explain the value of trees and how to best care for these new assets to the neighborhood.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

Six grants have been awarded this year through the **Urban Forest Council Community Grants Program**.

With funds from this program, the **Brookland Garden Club** created a garden gateway in one section of a Business Improvement Area. Volunteers from the neighborhood, the Brookland Business Community and area Boy and Girl Scouts planted indigenous shrubs, flowers and bulbs, and erected a "Welcome to Brookland" sign.



Neighborhood and area business volunteers, Boy and Girl Scouts, and the Brookland Garden Club at work on the garden gateway project.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Also funded by the Urban Forestry Grant Program, the North Capitol Area Business Association has formed the **Bicentennial Environmental Awareness Team** (DC BEAT.) This program provides students information about caring for all aspects of their urban environment. DC BEAT promotes this ethic using environmental characters like Woodsy Owl, Smokey the Bear, and McGruff the Crime Dog. They all team up to re-enforce crime reduction, appealing parks and livable neighborhoods. Included in the project is the development and beautification of five pocket parks in the area.

The River Terrace Parent Teacher Association (PTA), with funding from an Urban Forestry Grant, is renovating the River Terrace Elementary School grounds to promote safety. Diseased trees and overgrown shrubs are being removed and

the new landscape plan installed will create better visibility. A butterfly garden is one of the new design elements. Additional partners include the **River Terrace Civic Association**, **The Environmental Committee Anacostia Watershed** and the school's science club.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

The Trees and Landscape Division entered into an agreement with the **District of Columbia Department of Health (DOH)** to improve the **Watts Branch Park and Tributary**. DOH seeks to protect and improve water quality by extending the riparian buffer and promoting a stewardship ethic in the local community through participation and education.



Children celebrate a successful Brookland Garden Club neighborhood greening project.

Illinois

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The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Forest Resources, Urban and Community Forestry Program has a goal of helping communities and urban areas sustain the health and integrity of the forest resources in and around their community. To accomplish this goal, IDNR works toward establishing and maintaining local community forestry programs through technical assistance, information dissemination, enhancing partnerships and providing resources and recognition.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	2067
Communities Assisted	541
Training Hours	8,861
Federal Support	\$329,252
State and Local Matching	\$525,500

Partnerships

The IDNR maintains special federal partnerships with the two urban resources partnership (URP) projects in Illinois. IDNR's State Forester, Urban Conservation Program Administrator and other Forestry staff provided substantial

technical assistance to these programs. IDNR also provided funding to help support both of the URP coordinator positions.

Awareness

Four issues of the *Prairie Tree Companion* newsletter are distributed to over 3,000 individuals and units of government throughout the year. It provides timely information on urban forestry management issues, gives technical updates, reports on program initiatives and informs citizens of opportunities to participate in natural resource care and management activities.

Twenty-two District Foresters, one volunteer coordinator, four summer interns and four Regional Administrators provided hands-on technical assistance to communities in the areas of tree pruning, tree inventories and management plans, tree selection and planting.

In March 1999, IDNR recognized the **159 Tree City USA participants** at two conferences and award ceremonies. Illinois remains 2nd in the nation for the number of Tree City USA communities recognized for developing or maintaining local forestry programs.

Thirty-nine Tree City USA Growth

Awards were earned in Illinois. Once again, the number of awards received by Illinois communities ranks us #1 in the nation. The Tree City USA Growth Award recognizes communities for going beyond the standard local forestry program by completion of special initiatives.

1,001 school children participated in the state Arbor Day poster contest statewide. The theme for this year was "TREES ARE TERRIFIC ... For Shelter and Shade!"

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This year, the IDNR has sponsored and funded a variety of special projects:

- Through the **Tree Care Door Hanger Project**, Chicago residents received information on urban tree care.
- The Illinois Park District Association worked on a new initiative--planting **2,000 Trees by Year 2000** in Illinois parks.
- The Prairie Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council held a conference entitled "**Natural Resources and Your Development**" in Peoria.
- The **Central Illinois Tree Care Council** provided tree care information through Public Service Announcements on TV stations in eastern and central Illinois.
- The **Small Town Community Forestry Council** produced a community forestry video "Tree Cheers for Urban Forestry."
- Funding was also provided for Volunteer Coordinator positions at Southern Illinois University and the Chicago and East St. Louis Urban Resources Partnership.

In 1999, each of **Illinois' eight regional councils** conducted special projects and initiatives including, conducting workshops on tree risk management and pruning;

displaying exhibits on proper tree care and tree risk management at regional events and locations; updating public service announcements to promote tree care; developing a new poster/information flyer on tree selection and planting; implementing regional tree planting activities; continuing the development of a regional nursery in cooperation with the **National Tree Trust**; and distributing a new video to promote community forestry.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

During 1999 IDNR has provided **\$100,000 in grants to 24 communities**. Individuals and groups in the community contributed with a match of over \$129,000. The funds help communities establish or enhance urban and community forestry programs across the state. Projects include: 8 street tree inventories, 3 management plans, 4 public education projects, 6 tree planting projects, 4 tree care ordinances, 3 tree boards, and 5 employee training opportunities.



IDNR forestry intern conducting a conservation education program with children in the Chicago Park District.

Indiana

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The Community and Urban Forestry (CUF) program provides statewide leadership to increase public awareness of the value of trees and associated natural resources in urban areas, where more than 70% of Indiana citizens live. The program assists and encourages Indiana communities and volunteers to protect, expand and improve community forests.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	573
Communities Assisted	215
Training Hours	2,940
Federal Support	\$253,301
State and Local Matching	\$593,812

Partnerships

Richmond Power & Light, a city owned utility, has become more involved in community forestry. The state's utility partners donate regularly to CUF projects and are always present at events.

The towns of **Goshen**, (23,797 pop.) and **Nappanee** received a Hometown grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry to hire and share a city forester where individually they could not cover the start-up costs. Mayor Thompson of Nappanee said the town appreciated the

opportunity: *"We need the expertise of a city forester, but our community with a population of 5,474 is too small to hire one."*

Awareness

The CUF program publishes **GreenStreets** in partnership with the Indiana Urban Forest Council. This newsletter reaches 4,500 cities, towns, nonprofits, businesses, and private citizens two times a year.

The CUF program also completed the Indiana Community Tree Steward leader packet, which was given to each county Tree Steward committee to use in their programs. They also received \$1,000 matching grant to help defray costs of the program. Six counties in Indiana have initiated Tree Steward programs and two more are forming. There are a total of 300 Tree Stewards statewide.

More than 400 Indiana citizens attended the second annual **Community Forestry Fest** hosted by **Governor and Judy O'Bannon**. The Indiana Tree Stewards and other volunteers passed out over 400 tree seedlings, lunches, readied the Tree City USA awards, directed traffic, and were guides for tours. The 28 attending city representatives received a special award from the Governor and were each able to speak with the Governor and Mrs. O'Bannon at a private ceremony.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

A \$20,000 Hometown Grant was awarded to the **Ivy Tech Foundation** in partnership with **Ivy Tech College** and the city of **South Bend** to plant an arboretum in an inner city neighborhood that is being revitalized.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Residents of Eden Green in Fort Wayne contacted **Hoosier ReLeaf**, with a strong desire to beautify their neighborhood. Together with **The National Tree Trust**, **Eden Green Apartments** and **Allen County Tree Stewards**, the community planted more than 100 trees in one day. As one teen put it, *"Some think this is a bad place to live. It's home to me and my family. Anyplace can be bad if you let it. If we plant trees and make it pretty, people will know we care."*

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

The communities of Indianapolis (741,952 pop.), Bloomington (60,633 pop.), and Muncie (71,000 pop.) are implementing **Trees to Furniture** programs to reduce municipal wood waste.

Andre Morin of the urban forestry office assisted the **Orchard School** in Indianapolis with a City Green inventory to show administration officials what they will lose if they develop the 5-acre urban wood lot next to the school. The project, spearheaded by **Keep Indianapolis Beautiful**, trained students and teachers to assist with the tree inventory and analysis.

Indiana University of Indianapolis received a grant to complete a project that will demonstrate people's preferences for forested landscapes along urban greenways. The technical report and brochure of this project will help environmental professionals improve management of forests along urban greenways.



Eden Green youth and Indiana Community Tree Stewards work together to plant a tree.

INDIANA

Iowa

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Iowans have a long history of planting and caring for their community trees. But Iowa's urban forests are challenged by a lack of species diversity, declining health, old age of up to 25% of the trees, and limitations of local city forestry budgets. The Iowa Urban and Community Forestry Council advises and works with Iowa's State Forester to identify urban forestry concerns and issues, to gather information about Iowa's urban forestry resources and to develop policies and actions to sustain and improve Iowa's urban forests.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	980
Communities Assisted	463
Training Hours	13,245
Federal Support	\$211,434
State and Local Matching	\$376,726

Partnerships

The **Iowa Urban Forestry Program** is implemented through state and local partnerships focusing on technical assistance, training of professionals and volunteer leaders, and volunteer coordination and recognition. The **Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**, **Iowa State University Extension Forestry and Horticulture Departments**, **Trees Forever**, and additional grassroots organizations work

together to reach objectives set by the **Iowa Urban and Community Forestry Council**.

Awareness

Iowa's **Trees For Kids** and **Trees For Teens** program is a statewide cooperative tree education and planting program for elementary and secondary schools. In 1999, a record 7,045 teachers and youth leaders participated in these programs—a 40% increase over 1998. Teachers received specially designed conservation education materials and worked with over 408,000 students who planted more than 60,000 trees in public areas with a retail value of \$2,822,800. **This program is entirely supported by donations** totalling \$40,000 from MidAmerican Energy, Peoples Natural Gas and Alliant Utilities, along with support from Iowa's Nursery and Landscape Association and Iowa's Bankers Association.

As part of the **1999 Reading Rangers Program**, Iowa students read 82,000 pages during Earth Week resulting in 4,100 trees being planted at Loess Hills State Forest.

114 Iowa communities achieved Tree City USA recognition, with 39 of these communities achieving Growth Awards for achievement of special initiatives.

Trees Forever provided support and training to more than 350 Iowa communities with matching funds for tree planting totaling more than \$311,000 from **Alliant Utilities** and **Peoples Natural Gas**.

The Iowa State University Extension Forestry and Horticulture staff offered a series of 22 community tree workshops to 454 individuals. 306 graduates of the **Community Tree Steward Program** provided over 9,000 hours of community service.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The **Iowa Arborists Association** held a series of workshops for public and private tree firms to improve tree worker safety in **Des Moines** and **Iowa City**. Over 90 arborists attended. This group also held a workshop on tree evaluation for 60 arborists and appraisers to learn the latest techniques and methods. **Iowa State University Extension Forestry** and the **Iowa Department of Natural Resources** held two tree-worker training programs for 90 municipal utility and park employees in **Waverly** and **Indianola**.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

Trees Forever, collaborating with utility programs, provided volunteer coordination, technical assistance, and training to over **350 Iowa communities**. Several of these projects were in smaller agricultural communities, where community forestry is used as a rallying point for towns struggling to survive economically and needing to regain a sense of community.

Residential Tree Distribution Programs encouraged long-term neighborhood reforestation with native oaks in the Des Moines and Council Bluffs metro areas. Through this program, landscape trees were offered at reduced costs for planting on private property. The project was funded through private corporate donations and public service grants from the **Iowa West Foundation** and **Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino**. A total of 2,650 trees worth nearly \$172,250 were planted by more than 1,500 residents.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

2,000 copies of the new 8 minute video "**Backyard Conservation**," developed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Association of Conservation Districts, were duplicated by the Iowa DNR-Forests/Prairies Division and distributed to every school library in the state.



Iowa DNR foresters talk to students at Findly Elementary School in Des Moines about the importance of trees on their school grounds.

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The mission of the Maine Community Forestry Program is to provide leadership, technical services and financial assistance necessary to support the stewardship of Maine's community forests. The program fosters public awareness of the contributions that community forest ecosystems make to improving the quality of life and the environmental and economic well-being of the citizens of Maine communities.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	492
Communities Assisted	127
Training Hours	291.5
Federal Support*	\$200,914
State and Local Matching	\$237,969

** does not include ice storm funds*

Partnerships

Students at the **Good Will Hinckley High School** worked with the **L. C. Bates Museum and Arboretum** to improve the landscape as an educational opportunity for visitors to learn about community forestry.

Their work included tree planting in the arboretum, updating an incredible tree bark exhibit that was established

50 years ago, and developing teacher's guides and scripts for tours and museum exhibits. The students cut the wood needed for interpretive signs and made picnic tables that will be placed at key points along the paths being developed as a part of the arboretum tour.

Yearly the museum is visited by more than 15,000 people and another 14,000 are reached through a variety of outreach programs encouraging them to take advantage of the arboretum and trails that cover the 2,540 acre campus.



Department of Public Works employees attend a pruning workshop in Bath, Maine.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Awareness

The Maine Forest Service has spent the past year focused on **recovery from the devastating ice storm of January 1998**. In addition, program staff assisted 20 communities that previously had no interaction with the program.

The Maine Community Forestry Council and other volunteers assisted the state in the review of **117 grants** this year. This includes 48 grants to fund community assessments that defined the scope of destruction caused by the ice storm. The remaining grants supported tree planting and hazard tree reduction.

Eight workshops and seminars were held statewide covering topics from pruning techniques to grant writing. Individuals

from more than 160 communities and organizations participated in these events and received nearly **3,000 hours of direct community assistance**.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

One of the smallest and most underserved communities in Maine, **Wellington** (270 pop.), organized an extremely successful tree planting project this year as a result of the ice storm grant program. **Nearly 100 trees were planted by a strong volunteer group** in this small community. The project has been highly successful, with 99% of trees surviving after 2 years.



Governor Angus King, Jr (center), joins the Maine Arbor Day Celebration at the Pine Tree State Arboretum.

Maryland

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The Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) supports natural resource stewardship throughout the state with programs ranging from riparian restoration to the development of a new Tree Expert Licensing test.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	185
Communities Assisted	131
Training Hours	2,070
Federal Support	\$244,465
State and Local Matching	\$276,965

Partnerships

The **Maryland Community Forest Council** conducted the 7th Annual Community Forestry Workshop in partnership with Bartlett Tree Experts and the City of Westminster. Approximately 120 tree managers attended.

Fifty volunteers from the **Towson University Chorale** and the **Black Student Union** at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County worked together to help establish a riparian forest buffer at Stansbury Park in Dundalk. Students wrote a grant to the **Chesapeake Bay Trust** to pay for half

of the 150 native hardwood trees planted at the site. The **Baltimore County Forestry Board** paid for the other half. The **County Department of Parks and Recreation** delivered mulch and trees to the planting site. The **TreeMendous Maryland** program presented planting instruction, technical expertise, and environmental education and awareness. An "at risk" group of students from a nearby school watered the trees during the summer drought.

Awareness

UCF staff conducted **14 training workshops** on a variety of urban forestry-related topics to **368 participants** for a total of **2,070 seat hours**. Attendees included local government officials, planning and zoning staff, and consultants.

Over 42,750 volunteers offered nearly 105,600 hours of service toward tree planting, care, maintenance, and other related events and projects sponsored by Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)-Forest Service.

UCF staff administered the **Maryland Licensed Tree Expert and Roadside Tree Care Expert Test** to 138 individuals from public agencies and commercial tree care firms. **The Tree Expert Licensing test was totally revised.** The resulting product is a test that allows staff to track which areas of knowledge arborists skills are most deficient. This allows test takers to better prepare for the exam and for the UCF staff to focus educational efforts towards identified needs.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

Participation in the **Tree City USA** program increased 5% to a total of **39** communities last year. Participating

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

jurisdictions spent an average of \$4.08 per capita for a total of \$11,973,506 to support urban forestry programs for more than 2,935,000 citizens, or 57% of the entire state population. This is an increase by 34% of the number of citizens benefiting from the Tree City USA program. Minority citizens make up 45% of the population in Maryland's Tree City USA communities.

The Maryland Community Forest Council and the Maryland DNR-Forest Service continued their successful **PLANT (People Loving And Nurturing Trees) Community awards program**. In 1999, there were 119 **PLANT Communities** which was 56% over the target and 77% more than the previous year's level.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

The State's Forest Conservation Program has resulted in the retention

of 22,508 acres of forest and the planting of 4,314 acres of trees as mitigation, while 12,210 acres of forest were cleared for development. 120% more forest was retained or planted than was cleared.

Data collection was just completed on Maryland's first-ever **Roadside Tree Forest Health Assessment**. A product of a partnership between the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the USDA Forest Service, this effort will provide data on the quantity and quality of the roadside tree resource. The data will be analyzed over the coming months.

43 Maryland DNR-Forest service personnel are receiving training and testing to become ISA Certified Arborists in order to bring personnel up to current standards of practice in commercial tree care.



PLANT Community Award winners display the PLANT logo while being recognized for their achievements by MD DNR-Forest Service, the Maryland Community Forest Council, the Bowie Baysox baseball team and Smokey Bear.

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Massachusetts is blessed with climate and geography suited to growing robust forests, and a citizenry with a strong a conservation ethic learned from early overconsumption of resources. With both dense populations and vast town forests, commons and conservation land, the people of Massachusetts have come to expect the steady comfort and beauty of trees in their neighborhoods.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	360
Communities Assisted	224
Training Hours	12,982
Federal Support	\$243,624
State and Local matching	\$366,256

Partnerships

Tree Wardens are public officials mandated by the state to oversee public shade trees in each community. The **Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Forester's Association**, the oldest professional organization dedicated to arboriculture in the country, was founded in 1913. The organization has embarked on a number of organizational development projects to adapt and strengthen its ability to lead the profession into the next century.

The Massachusetts Community Forestry Council conducted four popular 'Networking Workshops' in Danvers, Walpole, Sturbridge and Pittsfield to bring community activists together and train them to effectively advocate for trees in their towns.

The following **Heritage Trees**, the elder statesmen of the Massachusetts urban forest, were a few of those given grants for top-notch care in 22 communities: the 'City Center Sycamores,' mature at the christening of the city of **Chicopee** in 1890; a former champion black oak in **Wellesley's** Clock Tower Park; a champion larch, the lone tree in a historic **Marlborough** cemetery; and several unique trees on **Barnstable's** town green.

Awareness

Hundreds of planners, landscape architects, students and tree activists attended a forum on **Building Livable Cities**, co-hosted with the Massachusetts Community Forestry Council. The lively forum addressed many factors that contribute to community character and a sense of place.

The **Citizen Forester** newsletter has grown to reach more than 2,600 people monthly with concise, relevant news about urban forestry in Massachusetts.

The Urban Forestry Program debuted at the **Massachusetts Municipal Association** annual conference. Dozens of civic leaders conferred with staff about improving care of their community trees.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

Staff of the **Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

encouraged and worked with teams of young people from urban neighborhoods around Boston in a two-day tree-climbing workshop hosted by **Eagle Eye Institute (EEI)**. This hands, arms and legs-on workshop helped young people gain self-confidence by climbing trees.

In partnership with the **Division of Youth Services**, **EEI**, and the **USDA Forest Service** the Urban Forestry Program unveiled **Youth and Trees**, a pilot program to teach juvenile offenders skills for entry-level positions in the green industry, including the basics of turf management, tree care, and landscape maintenance skills.



On Boston Commons, celebrants gather around a stand-in Liberty Tree on the day the legislature set aside in the 1960's to honor the tree that was pivotal in the American Revolt against British rule. The spirit of the Sons of Liberty and the tree they rallied around will be honored this year by the Boston Freedom Award.

The city of **Lawrence** worked to reunite all of its residents with Den Rock Park, now cut off from the city by the construction of a major highway. User-friendly trails were designed based on Geographic Information System (GIS) maps. A volunteer clean-up day and other events were organized to bring families from nearby dense, urban neighborhoods back to the park.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

Fifty enthusiastic community residents, urban designers, engineers and environmentalists joined in a day of "creative visioning" to explore ways of restoring beauty and environmental quality to **Boston's Charlesgate Interchange Park**. This successful design charette built lasting links that will lead to greater support, more resources and imaginative solutions to fixing this broken link in the band of green that makes up **Olmsted's Emerald Necklace**.

The cities of **Worcester** and **New Bedford** each conducted city-wide tree surveys. Volunteers from the **Regional Environmental Council Urban Tree Task Force** and diverse groups of **Junior Rangers** collected data with training and oversight from the Urban Forestry Program. **University of Massachusetts at Amherst** also conducted an inventory of the campus based on GIS to use as a teaching tool.

In a broad and ambitious attempt to measure the quality of life in Boston, the city and the Boston Foundation have collected more than a hundred statistics, in **Boston's Indicators of Progress, Change and Sustainability**. Among vital figures in civic health, public safety, housing and the arts, the percent of tree cover by neighborhood was added as a significant measure of community health.

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Key urban and community forestry issues in Michigan include storm management and response, awareness and education related to natural resources in urban, suburban and rural communities, and technical assistance. The Michigan Community and Urban Forestry Program directly impacts community health and resource sustainability by providing the tools needed to make informed decisions about managing natural resources.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	1,367
Communities Assisted	971
Training Hours	9,446
Federal Support	\$285,070
State and Local Matching	\$285,070

Partnerships

The Michigan Community and Urban Forestry program has developed a broad-spectrum assistance concept, the **Cooperative Resource Management Initiative (CRMI)**. Under the umbrella organization CRMI, state agencies and other programs coordinate natural resource assistance to communities in urban, suburban and rural landscapes across programmatic areas and professional disciplines.

The Michigan Community and Urban Forestry Program partnered with the Ingham County Conservation District and the Michigan Arbor Day Alliance to fund the state's 1999 Arbor Day celebration. **Twelve hundred 2nd and 3rd grade students** participated in the celebration. Other initiatives associated with this event include the development of a Michigan Arbor Day packet and the establishment of a statewide steering committee and network for future Arbor Day activities.

Together, **The Greening of Detroit** and the Michigan Community and Urban Forestry Program funded several different technical assistance and education efforts including 540 hours of TreeKeeper training, 5,400 hours of training for 252 high school students on schoolyard habitat sites, and 240 hours of training and demonstrations in the art of pruning.



Children play an active role in tree-planting festivities at the Michigan State Arbor Day Celebration held at Potter Park Zoo, in Lansing, Michigan.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Awareness

Through CRMI, 31 resource professionals located in conservation districts received technical information and materials on urban and community forestry. Resource professionals were provided Street Tree Fact Sheets, Tree City USA Booklets, and pruning publications for dispersal to the public. Another example of CRMI outreach to resource professionals is the **"People, Trees, and the Law"** training workshop organized in partnership with the Michigan Society of American Foresters.

A total of **894 trees** were planted in Southeastern Michigan as a result of 16 **Detroit Edison Electric Company** tree planting grants.

In cooperation with the **Michigan State Police** and **Federal Emergency Management Agency**, the Michigan Community and Urban Forestry Program conducted five "Tree Management to Prevent Storm Damage" workshops. 120 people attended these sessions designed to assist communities with storm preparedness and prevention of storm-related damages.

This year, the Michigan Community and Urban Forestry Program presented an ecosystem workshop titled, **"Keeping Nature in Your Neighborhood,"** based on Minnesota's program. 28 individuals participated.

In honor of Arbor Day, the Michigan Community and Urban Forestry Program awarded **75 Arbor Day mini grants**. With these mini grants, 2,329 trees were planted, library materials were purchased for 11 libraries, and 66 Arbor Day celebrations were held around the state.

Throughout the year, the Michigan Community and Urban Forestry Program

funded **31 Community Forestry grants** for approximately **\$131,000** and provided twelve libraries and nature centers with funding to develop and expand their urban and community forestry reference materials.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

Michigan State University and the Michigan Community and Urban Forestry Program developed a model workshop entitled **Dialog for Diversity** to increase public participation with under-represented residents who have an interest in forestry and natural resource management. The first of five workshops was successfully held with 40 participants.



This newly placed tree receives a hug from one of the 1400 children to attend the Michigan State Arbor Day Celebration.

MICHIGAN

Minnesota

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forestry

Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) in Minnesota is a cooperative effort among many entities including federal, state, local, nonprofit, and volunteer organizations. The UCF Program seeks to strengthen advocacy by local leaders and to increase the capacity of local units of government to manage appropriately their community forest resources.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	862
Communities Assisted	217
Training hours	14,755
Federal support	\$223,636
State and Local Match	\$612,196

Partnerships

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), the Minnesota Division of Emergency

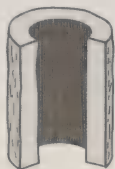
Management, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector have worked together to provide continued assistance to communities recovering from natural disasters.

Several cooperative efforts will help all communities better prepare for and prevent future storm damage to trees. DNR staff provided hazard tree assessment training at **five Tree Inspector Workshops** to 260 local managers representing 120 communities. For these events, they refined and condensed their system into a convenient field guide: *Risk Assessment Guidelines for Hazard Trees*.

The Storm Response subcommittee of the Minnesota State Council developed the *Storm Response Planning Manual* for communities and provided training sessions for its use to more than 100 public and private foresters and all 45 DNR UCF program leaders.

13 smaller communities in southwest Minnesota have mitigated future storm damage by removing hazardous and utility-conflict trees, replacing them with appropriate species and incorporating tree debris management into their emergency response plans in cooperation with county authorities.

The cities of **St. Peter, Le Center, Austin, and Comfrey**, after suffering severe tree losses due to tornados and straight line wind, have conducted inventories leading to planting projects and the development of management plans.



Risk Assessment Guidelines for
HAZARD TREES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Awareness

The **Minneapolis Star Tribune**, Minnesota's largest daily newspaper, featured **Arbor Month Partnership (AMP)** educational materials on their web site throughout April and May 1999. This web page provided increased access to tree planting and care information for AMP's statewide network of more than 4,500 teachers, libraries, environmental educators, city foresters, and arborists.

The Minnesota state council's web site was reformatted and updated with funds from the **USDA Forest Service** and **DNR**. This site will serve as the nucleus for developing the **Minnesota Center for Urban and Community Forestry**.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

More than 115 tree planting and forest health grant projects were completed as part of the expanded **Minnesota ReLeaf Grant Program**. These projects involved a variety of under-served populations from the inner cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul to small towns in the farthest corners of the state.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

After severe snow storms in the winters of 1996 and 1997, a task force representing several state and federal agencies was formed to deal with the

perennial problem of community closings and commerce disruption by drifting snow. This group completed a technical manual, ***Catching the Snow with Living Snow Fences***, and conducted five training workshops for 200 community representatives and rural landowners. The manual and workshops provide details on the design, installation and maintenance of plantings to trap snow thereby reducing road closures and snow removal costs. FEMA mitigation funds were used to pilot this project in and around eighteen communities in Minnesota's prairie ecological regions.

A **pilot grant project monitoring system** was developed and used to assess tree health and program effectiveness for 64 previously funded projects. DNR field staff are being trained to incorporate monitoring into their community assistance routine. All application materials were added to the department's web site for greater access.

DNR staff completed the guide book: ***Conserving Wooded Areas in Developing Communities: Best Management Practices in Minnesota***, and developed a companion **Builders and Developers Awards Program**. The awards will recognize environmentally-friendly residential and commercial developments. This effort has the strong support of the **Minnesota and Metropolitan Builders Associations**.

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The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) continues to promote and support urban and community forestry activities statewide. MDC assists communities in the development of sustainable urban and community forestry programs through the four following programs: Tree City USA, Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance grants, promotion and coordination of volunteer-driven urban and community forestry programs, and the Missouri Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	847
Communities Assisted	223
Training Hours	11,900
Federal Support	\$241,520
State and Local Matching	\$962,810

Partnerships

The Branch Out Missouri program provided **41 tree planting grants totaling \$165,967**. This program provides 60%-80% of the total cost of the projects and the applicants provide the remaining funds. As a result of this grant project **2,279 trees were planted** in communities all over the state.

Working closely with **Forest ReLeaf of Missouri**, who contracts to be the urban and community forestry volunteer coordinator, MDC supported new and existing volunteer groups with technical and financial assistance. For example, the Treekeepers program, which trains and utilizes volunteers for community tree maintenance, continues to expand in communities such as Springfield, Kansas City, St. Joseph, St. Louis, and Columbia.

Awareness

Fifteen Missouri communities received grants this year through a new grant program implemented by the MDC called **Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM)**. Recognizing the importance of continued tree care and maintenance after initial planting, this grant program provides cost share grants to communities for non-tree planting projects. The grants are available for activities such as urban tree inventories, hazard tree identification and management, routine pruning activities, educational materials, and tree ordinance development.

The **Missouri Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council**, supported by the MDC, has played a big part in utilizing volunteers to educate the public about urban and community forestry programs in the state. The council's most effective activity is the annual urban forestry conference held in conjunction with the **Missouri Parks & Recreation Association** conference. Each year the conference provides a program with professional speakers and creates an avenue to reach those people in charge of municipal tree programs. This year, approximately 100 people attended each technical session.

The Council continued its active role in support of urban forestry programs. Educational activities this year included: the

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

statewide **Arbor Day Poster Contest** for all fifth-graders in the state; regional workshops and seminars on topics such as tree selection, tree care, pruning techniques, and tree inventories; and the publication of a quarterly newsletter entitled *Cityscape* which covers activities of the Council, recognizes individuals and communities with outstanding urban forestry projects, provides technical tree care information and a calendar of upcoming events.

The **Missouri Treescape Awards** are presented annually to towns, businesses, groups or individuals who have completed exemplary tree planting projects that benefit their entire communities. Awards were presented by the Missouri Department of Conservation Director, Jerry Conley, and Mrs. Jean Carnahan, Missouri's First Lady.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

Springfield City Utilities, St. Joseph Light and Power Company, and Columbia Water and Light Department were all recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as Tree Line USA companies.

Missouri revisited an **urban tree inventory**, originally completed in 1989. Established plots in communities across the entire state were reinventoried. The data collected will be analyzed next year and provide important information about trends in the tree resources of our cities.



Missouri Treescape Awards are presented annually by the Missouri Department of Conservation for tree planting projects which improve communities. Kent Theiling (left) received one of the twelve awards on behalf of the Saint Louis County Parks Department. Awards were presented in a special ceremony by Mrs. Jean Carnahan, wife of Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan, and Missouri Department of Conservation Director Jerry Conley.

New Hampshire

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Within each New Hampshire community, the responsibility for decision making and management of community trees and forests is fragmented between numerous departments, commissions, committees and boards. As budgets tighten in all levels of government, volunteers play larger roles in many organizations. The New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Program strives to assist communities as they meet these new challenges by training volunteers and helping communities develop overall plans and policies.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	237
Communities Assisted	124
Training Hours	8,125
Federal Support*	\$181,348
State and Local Matching	\$282,416

**does not include ice storm money*

Partnerships

The New Hampshire **Community Tree Steward Program** has worked with city of **Manchester** officials, residents and organizations to ensure that tree projects throughout the city are self-sustaining. Long term partnerships with over 15 city agencies, private organizations and community groups have been established.

Awareness

Sixty-two Community Tree Stewards volunteered a **total of 1,956 hours** assisting more than **35 New Hampshire communities**. Tree Stewards served on tree committees, helped with fund-raising efforts, and worked on landscape projects, community gardens, natural resources inventories and evaluations, and tree planting and watershed improvement projects.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

The New Hampshire Community Tree Steward Program began a new focus in the city of **Nashua**, the second largest city in New Hampshire. Initial visits have taken place to determine the city's stewardship needs. One project has already begun at the Bronstien Apartments in downtown Nashua, the home of 48 multi-cultural families. This densely populated complex has experienced severe degradation of its grounds and structures. Community Tree Stewards worked with children and adult residents and the **Nashua Housing Authority** to begin a beautification project adjacent to the apartment's community center.

Natural Resource Management

Community Tree Stewards Brenda Bhatti and John Livey wrote and submitted a proposal to the city of Manchester and the New Hampshire **Natural Heritage Inventory Program** to create a Geographic Information System (GIS) map to record the endangered species for the city. Over thirty threatened and endangered plant and animal species exist within city boundaries although there was little known about their occurrences.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Identifying the locations of these species is critical to protecting them from disruptions and development.

Approximately 25,000 people attended the **1999 Farm and Forest Exposition**, held at the Center of New Hampshire in Manchester. The purpose of this exposition is to inform and educate the general public about the connection to the land through forestry and agriculture. This three day event was sponsored by the **Division of Forest and Lands**, the **Department of Agriculture**, and the **University of New**

Hampshire Cooperative Extension.

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and the Division of Forest and Lands, working in partnership with the **Weeks Park Association in Lancaster**, developed a weekly series of natural resource oriented lectures, seminars and workshops. The purpose of these workshops is to help elevate public understanding of the natural world, ecology, and management of natural resources. To date over 1300 people have attended these programs.



Division of Forests and Lands Exhibit at the Farm and Forest Exposition

New Jersey

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community

New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation, and the population continues to increase. The New Jersey Community Forestry Program strives to address the specific risks and broad challenges that threaten urban forests and the overall health of New Jersey's natural resources.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	587
Communities Assisted	369
Training Hours	7,888
Federal Support	\$272,447
State and Local Matching	\$1,331,000

Partnerships

Trenton, the state capital, was the site for 1999's **Celebrate Arbor Day! 50th Anniversary Festival**. Governor Christine Todd Whitman and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Robert C. Shinn joined over 1,000 schoolchildren in the day's festivities. Speakers included Tina Schweitzer of the **National Arbor Day Foundation** and David Nizejewski of

the **National Tree Trust**, along with various sponsor representatives. The event was developed through a partnership between the New Jersey Tree Foundation and the New Jersey Community Forestry Program, and was developed with the help of numerous partners.

Awareness

Sales of the **"Treasure our Trees" license plate** have been steadily rising. Proceeds go to the **Community Stewardship Incentive Grant Program** that provides funding to municipalities that have completed the requirements of the 1996 New Jersey Shade Tree Community Forestry Act and are ready to act on tree planting and maintenance goals.

This past Arbor Day, the **New Jersey Tree Foundation** coordinated the tree planting and educational project **Celebrate Arbor Day!** The Foundation, in partnership with the National Tree Trust and the New Jersey Forest Service provided over 4,000 one-year-old tree seedlings to volunteer groups in the state. Schools, local governments, tree groups, nonprofit organizations and scouts planted the trees to beautify parks, cemeteries, school grounds and public lands. Approximately one month in advance, the Tree Foundation held five regional tree planting workshops for project volunteer leaders.

In October, the New Jersey Tree Foundation's **"Make a Difference with Trees"** project occurred on the annual "Make a Difference" day. 40 volunteer groups **planted more than 3800 trees** on October 23, 1999.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

The New Jersey Community Forestry Council secured \$900,000 for the Community Forestry Program, the first-ever state funding for the program. Out of this money, two new grant programs, the New Jersey Tree Planting Grant and the Green Communities grant, will allow communities to undertake tree planting projects and complete community forestry management plans.

More and more New Jersey communities are seeking to identify themselves as a Tree City USA. For the first time in New Jersey, more than 100 cities achieved Tree City USA status.

Two ambitious research projects are wrapping up in the Garden State. The first follows up a 1995 statewide assessment of New Jersey's street trees, "**Trees in Crisis,**" and investigates if the quality of street trees has improved or continued to decline.

Last year, Jersey City, NJ was the focus of a second study, "**Assessing the Effects of Trees on Air Quality.**" Out of this study, a model was developed comparing tree cover, the removal of air toxins and pollutants and carbon stored by the urban forest. This compilation of previously inaccessible information will help policy makers, urban planners, and the New Jersey Community Forestry Program to quantify and publicize these benefits now and obtain them in the future.



Children who attended the 50th Anniversary of Arbor Day in New Jersey Festival learned about the connection between trees and air quality at this hands-on activity station.

New York

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New York is a large and diverse state, both in its land mass and population. It is rural in nature, with more than 18 million acres of forest land, or about 62% of the State. The metropolitan regions around the seven primary population centers of the state contain the majority of the citizens. However, most of the state's municipalities are villages with populations ranging from a few hundred to several thousand.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	732
Communities Assisted	443
Training Hours	5,845
Federal Support*	\$449,806
State and Local Matching	\$593,000

**does not include ice storm funds*

Partnerships

The Labor Day Windstorm of 1998 in Syracuse, NY forged partnerships as the affected communities of Manlius, Syracuse, Baldwinsville, Camillus, Jordan and North Syracuse worked together with The State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry the Niagara Mohawk and New York State Electric and Gas Companies, municipal governments and the state forestry agency to restore urban forest resources after the storm.

The city of Syracuse, under the direction of Mayor Roy Bernardi, created a **ReLeaf Syracuse Committee** comprised of private and public sector forestry stakeholders from more than 15 organizations. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation has provided technical assistance and leadership in helping the city develop a comprehensive community forestry management plan that will include public participation and education and a Geographic Information System (GIS) map of trees in the city.

Awareness

The Annual **New York ReLeaf State Conference** was organized by the Urban Forestry Council and the Buffalo ReLeaf Committee. The program was attended by more than 150 participants from across the state with a wide variety of backgrounds.

The **New York State Tree Nursery School Seedling Program** is promoting Arbor Day and providing educational opportunities for innovative school teachers. The nursery produces school seedling packets for planting in school yards. Included are lesson plans on biology, energy conservation, and erosion control. **In 1999, over 675 schools participated in the program.**

Capital District foresters participated in planning the annual **Tour de Trees** cycling event. Since 1992, this week-long tour has **raised over \$780,000** for research and education to improve the quality of urban tree care through the **International Society of Arboriculture Research Trust**.

The workshop **"Crash Course in Urban and Community Forestry"** was presented in the Hudson Valley region, cosponsored by the **Dutchess County**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cooperative Extension and Westchester County Parks and Recreation. The conference was videotaped and is currently being edited for future marketing and public education outreach efforts.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

This year 38 Urban Community Forestry Grants were awarded totaling \$193,000, an increase of \$50,000 from last year.

The Long Island ReLeaf's Spruce Up Program is a landscape design contest for Long Island Schools. The program encourages school classes to work on developing landscape design plans for their school grounds. The students learn about measurements, mapping, design, drawing, planning, and most importantly, landscape and plant materials. The entries are judged by the Long Island ReLeaf Committee and the winning designs receive funding to implement the landscaping project.

Comprehensive Natural Resources Management

With two million dollars in federal assistance earmarked for northern New York communities affected by the 1998 ice storm, a grant program was instituted to develop comprehensive urban forestry plans for affected communities. Cost share funds were made available to implement projects including development of management plans, street tree inventories, and hazard tree evaluations.

The Asian longhorned beetle infestation on Long Island and in New York City continues to threaten New York's urban and rural forests. With a mix of federal, state, and local funding education and restoration efforts have continued and a comprehensive replanting program has been initiated.



Student intern working on a Community Forestry Tree Planting Grant Project in Prospect Park, Brooklyn.

Ohio

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ODNR/Urban/Urbanfor.htm](http://www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/ODNR/Urban/Urbanfor.htm)

Ohio's Urban Forestry Program is a state-supported service of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, providing organizational and technical urban forestry assistance primarily to community officials and allied agencies. A statewide network of six regional urban foresters help communities manage their urban forest resources to meet local needs.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	942
Communities Assisted	403
Training Hours	5,361
Federal Support	\$332,618
State and Local Matching	\$543,395

Partnerships

The Urban Forestry Program completed a street tree evaluation research project in conjunction with **The Ohio State University**. This project involved photographic and statistical data on nearly 100 street trees planted over 40 years ago. The final document shows how trees change and how trees change a street's character over time.

The **Ohio Environmental Protection Agency** and the **Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry (DOF)** entered into a tree planting grant partnership. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will dedicate 20% of all air pollution fines (up to \$400,000 per year) to a statewide urban forestry grant program administered by DOF.

Awareness

In cooperation with Division of Forestry's Forest Health Program, a meeting of state and federal agencies was held to develop a plan of action in the event that an **Asian longhorned beetle** infestation is discovered in Ohio. Agency roles and responsibilities were discussed and determined.

In cooperation with the **Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association**, a "Green Ordinance" conference was held. Ohio mayors, city foresters, and city planners heard national experts discuss the pros and cons of municipal ordinances.

The six state urban foresters hosted regional urban forestry conferences to support healthy and sustainable communities. These programs provided mayors, managers, city foresters, tree commission members, and green industry companies an opportunity to gain and share information that will help them implement local projects and programs. A total of **596 individuals** attended these conferences.

For the 17th consecutive year, Ohio leads the nation in the number of Tree City USA communities. Ohio's **219 designated Tree City USA cities and villages** demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life through the proper management of urban forest resources.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

As part of the 20th Anniversary **Celebration of Ohio's Urban Forestry Program**, the Division of Forestry (DOF) is conducting surveys to evaluate its services to Ohio. The surveys will be directed to two categories of communities: cities and villages that have received DOF assistance in the past and communities that have been under-assisted or have never requested help. Results from the surveys will be used to assess the current program and guide modification of DOF's services.

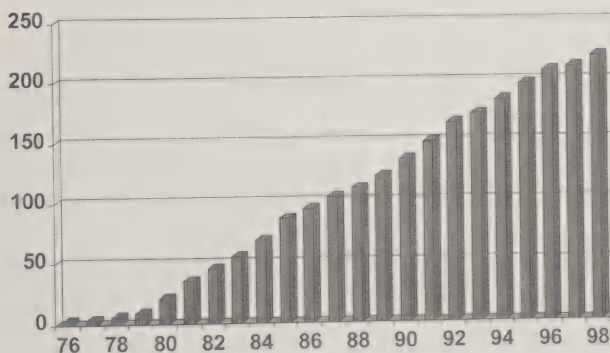
Minority outreach and recruitment efforts were implemented with the **Stark County Social Worker Network (SCSWN)** and **The Ohio State University's Minority in Agriculture Natural Resources and other Related Sciences program (MANRRS)**.

SCSWN works to increase awareness of urban forestry and career opportunities of high school students in predominantly minority neighborhoods, while MANRRS attempts to recruit high school seniors into collegiate natural resource curricula.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

On the morning of April 9, 1999, sections of the city of **Montgomery** were severely damaged by a tornado. A tree recovery plan, addressing short-term remedial actions as well as long-term strategies to return the vegetation to its original state, was developed by the city, extension and the Division of Forestry.

Tree City USA - OHIO 1976-1998



The Tree City USA graph indicates the influence of state assistance. Substantial growth in the number of designated Tree City USA communities occurred only after the initiation of Ohio's Urban Forestry Program in 1979.

Pennsylvania

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The Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Program provides the means and resources to establish and maintain urban forests in communities across the state. This assistance beautifies communities and elevates the pride and level of involvement of Pennsylvania residents.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	2672
Communities assisted	580
Training Hours	18,749
Federal Support	\$446,216
State and Local Matching	\$494,585

Partnerships

A coalition has been formed between **Welcome to Indiana, The Indiana Tree Commission, and Penn State Extension** to facilitate the formation and improvement of community tree programs throughout Indiana County. A survey has been conducted of all municipalities to determine the desire for education, technical assistance, and information. Proposed projects include a newsletter, peer mentoring, and county-focused workshops and seminars.

Awareness

The Extension Urban Forester in northeast Pennsylvania wrote and received a

\$14,000 grant from the USDA Forest Service through the **Northeast Pennsylvania Community Forestry Program**. This grant has allowed the **Northeast Pennsylvania Community Tree Association** to replicate the Community Tree Stewards training program that was successfully developed in southeast Pennsylvania. In spring 2000, this program will provide comprehensive training and resource materials for members of municipal shade tree commissions and volunteer organizations.



US Forest Service Watershed Specialist Roxanne Palone fertilizes a tree planted in memory of the late urban forester, Sharon Ossenbruggen, along the Susquehanna River in Harrisburg.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Outreach and Environmental Equity

The Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Program completed the final stages of planning for a **"Growing Your Futures Career Day"** with the Philadelphia School District. Natural resource and horticultural stations were designed for 200 selected inner-city eighth graders to learn about green career opportunities. Lesson plans and career descriptions will be compiled in a "how to" guide which will be shared with all states and organizations interested in conducting this type of event. The project was funded by a \$5,500 grant from the **National Tree Trust** and matching grants from the **PA Urban and Community Forestry Council** and **Bartlett Tree Experts**.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

The Northeast Pennsylvania Extension Urban Forester presented **"Protecting and Restoring Riparian Forests in Urban Floodplains"** at the 1999 National Urban Forestry Conference in Seattle, WA. The presentation focused on eight years of work with the **Wilkes-Barre Riverfront Parks Committee** educating the public about the importance of riparian forests and building community-based partnerships to build trails, remove hazardous trees, plant trees, and control exotic invasive plants.

The Central Pennsylvania Extension Urban Forester proposed a **Public Issues Forum Booklet** exploring land use planning, growth, and developments in Central Pennsylvania.



Members of the General Federation of Women's Club of Milton, PA worked with school teachers to show students how to plant trees.

Rhode Island

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Communities throughout Rhode Island have embraced the Urban and Community Forestry Program to restore and maintain their green infrastructure. Communities demonstrated their commitment to community forestry through their strong support of the Urban and Community Forest Guide Plan at the statewide public hearing.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	40
Communities Assisted	40
Training Hours	2,703
Federal Support	\$165,990
State and Local Matching	\$172,214

Awareness

165,000 readers of the *Providence Journal* were informed about the importance of trees and the programs of the **Rhode Island Tree Council**, International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and the National Tree Trust.

In the **1999 Tour des Trees**, 47 bicyclists rode 550 miles through New England to raise public awareness and funds for urban tree research.

Outreach and Environmental Equity

The Treeture program lifted spirits at **Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence Rhode Island**. Treeture costume characters make visits to highlight and spread the message of tree planting and tree care and teach kids the important role trees play in keeping the environment healthy. Two Treetures, *Chlorophyllis*, and *Professor Arbor E. Tum*, made rounds though the Hospital, visiting individual rooms and putting on a large show in the Solarium.

Partnerships

Rhode Island completed its **Urban and Community Forest Guide Plan**, developed under the premise that "*Healthy and productive urban and*



Melanie Lefkowitz, Providence Journal Staff Writer, joined by Tim Womick, National Tree Trust and Karl Parker, ISA, Tour des Trees, coordinator, plant a sugar maple in the town of Foster.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

community forests are important assets for Rhode Island and its citizens, assets that, like other aspects of community infrastructure, must be carefully managed." The planning guide emphasizes the important role urban and community forests play in maintaining the quality of community life. Within the plan, goals and strategies are identified for implementing and managing sustainable urban and community programs statewide. Tree conservation techniques and their potential influence over land use and growth management issues are also highlighted.

Rhode Island's celebration of **Arbor Day 1999** included a diverse array of activities. After the welcome from the Provost from the University of Rhode Island, **Governor Lincoln Almond** talked about

the protection and conservation of open space throughout the State. **Jan H. Rietsma**, the **Director of the Department of Environmental Management**, emphasized the importance of trees and their effect on Narragansett Bay. **Thomas A. Dupree**, **Rhode Island State Forester** talked about the history of Arbor Day. **William Harrington**, from the **US Postal Service** dedicated the issuance of the Bartram Stamp. The 4th Grade class from **West Kingston Elementary School** presented their Arbor Day celebration. The Ceremony concluded with the presentation of Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association Legislative awards to a local State Representative and Senator for their efforts in supporting the Green Industry at the State level.



At the State Arbor Day Ceremony, Governor Lincoln Almond and Jan H. Rietsma, Director of the Department of Environmental Management, joined students to plant two *Franklinia altamaha* donated by the Rhode Island Nursery and Landscape Association.

Vermont

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The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program mission is to "*promote the stewardship of urban and rural forest landscapes to enhance the quality of life in Vermont communities.*" The strength of the Program continues to be its flexibility in responding to the local needs and situations of the participating communities.

During the past fiscal year, the state program has provided community assistance through everything from long-term tree health problems due to the 1998 Ice Storm and the summer drought of 1999, to emerging local issues such as interpretation of town tree warden statutes and liability, and statewide initiatives relating to smart growth.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	251
Communities Assisted	125
Training Hours	10,600
Federal Support*	\$176,720
State and Local Matching	\$293,524

**does not include ice storm funds*

Partnerships

The Vermont Agency of Transportation, the Vermont Chapter of ASLA and the State Program are producing a companion to the Vermont Design Manual. This manual will include graphic depictions of roadside landscaping as well as proper engineering language to fully incorporate trees in transportation plans. Planting details and updated recommendations for tree protection and long-term maintenance will also be included in this document.

Awareness

This year, the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program revised its program information brochure. The updated brochure includes new program opportunities and a map which depicts program participation around the state. *The Town Green*, the program newsletter was increased to a quarterly publication.

The volunteer organization **Branch-Out Burlington** hosted several programs over the year with financial assistance from the state program. **The Awesome Tree Contest** encouraged residents to nominate large, unique and historic trees. **The Burlington Tree Walk** provided an opportunity to visit some of the more unique public and private trees within the city. Educational seminars for homeowners dealt with topics such as tree planting, pruning, and plant health care. *The Burlington Free Press*, Vermont's largest daily newspaper cosponsored many of these events.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Outreach and Environmental Equity

The state program launched the **Vermont Backyard Forest Stewardship Program** in Chittenden county, an area with shifting demographics. This cooperative venture with the Winooski National Resource Conservation District provides on-site technical assistance to landowners with less than 20 acres, stressing their role in forest sustainability.

A database of Vermont communities was developed with a GIS interface. This database will help the state program to evaluate the level of community participation in program activities, and develop strategies and target new initiatives to better serve all Vermont municipalities.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

Grand Isle County (7,000 pop.) was severely affected by the January 1998 ice storm. With technical and financial assistance, four municipalities have made great strides in improving their community forests. Each town now has an active tree warden, a basic inventory and health assessment of roadside trees, and is implementing tree planting plans.

The Vermont state program offered technical and financial assistance to **45 communities** in order to better manage their town and municipal forest resources.



Staff from the Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation received training on pruning young trees from Burlington City Arborist Warren Spinner.

West Virginia

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The mission of the West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry Program is to provide leadership and promote long-term tree care programs in communities throughout the state. The program continued to make community leaders and citizens aware of the importance of the urban forest ecosystem.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	234
Communities Assisted	49
Training Hours	155
Federal Support	\$214,379
State and Local Matching	\$237,682

Partnerships

Demonstration City Grants were awarded to 23 communities with \$80,703 in federal support.

Communities involved have a combined population of 277,707. These funds leveraged an additional \$102,833 from local partners. Benefits included: 787 trees planted, 47 hazard trees removed, mature tree care provided to 341 trees, the creation of outdoor classrooms, and training for local tree boards.

The city of **Parkersburg** (33,862 pop.) has an extremely active tree board that

received a **1999 Gold Leaf Award from the International Society of Arboriculture**. Their pilot program, "Progress with Harmony", involves a partnership with electric utilities and homeowners to promote proper species selection and pruning techniques. They have also developed a Tree Memorial Program and utilized grant funds to plant 74 trees in areas lacking street trees.

The goal of the new **Municipal Tree Restoration Program** is to resolve conflicts between electric utility lines and large- maturing street trees. Partners include the **Division of Forestry, West Virginia University, American Electric Power, and Allegheny Power**. Additional benefits will include educating homeowners about tree selection near power lines. A graduate student from the university cooperates with tree board volunteers to monitor replacement trees and provide tree care training. A "satisfaction index" is also being developed to capture the opinions of impacted residents and to determine how well the overall goals of the community were met.

Awareness

The **Urban and Community Forestry Council** actively informed communities of the importance of sustained tree care programs. Outreach efforts involved: newsletters, promoting the Arbor Day Poster Contest, identifying training needs and opportunities, and funding community forestry programs through **Demonstration City Grants**. A draft of the next Strategic Urban Forestry Plan has been developed.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Outreach

21 communities, schools, and volunteer groups participated in the **National Tree Trust** Community Tree Planting Program. **Over 2,700 trees were planted by 390 volunteers on public property.** These volunteers donated approximately 1,114 hours to their respective projects that leveraged \$3,745 in local funds. The West Virginia Division of Forestry contributed more than 1,100 trees and \$900 to the program. This cooperative program targets small communities and volunteer groups to foster additional tree care programs.

The city of **Ceredo** (population 1,916) continued to benefit from a grant-funded nursery. This allowed them to produce

their own street trees at a low cost. Current grant and local funds provided a new greenhouse to produce seedlings and bedding plants. A spring flower sale at the greenhouse generated over \$2,000 for their community forestry program.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

The city of **Morgantown** (25,879 pop.) received funding to complete phase one of a comprehensive management plan. Additional grant and local dollars are budgeted for the collection of inventory data over the next five years. The grant also provided for an Arbor Day planting of 33 trees in local parks.



West Virginia Urban Forestry Coordinator Robert Hannah plants a sugar maple while telling the story of Arbor Day to the fifth grade class of Lyndsay Neal, West Virginia's 1999 Arbor Day State Poster Contest winner.

Wisconsin

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The Wisconsin Urban Forest Resource Assessment completed this year showed the overall canopy cover of Wisconsin's communities ranged from 14% to 55% averaging 29%. Most communities are well below the 40% national standard.

The management of urban and community forests continues to be a relatively low priority in the majority of Wisconsin communities. As a result there is a critical need to improve public awareness of the ecological, social and economic benefits of urban forests.

Performance Highlights

Number of Communities	687
Communities Assisted	266
Training Hours	10,580
Federal Support	\$231,421
State and Local Matching	\$1,316,183

Partnerships

Northeastern Wisconsin's **Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council** typically works on rural issues. However, Lumberjack saw an opportunity to connect larger communities with the forest industry through urban forestry. With urban forestry grants and an urban forestry

consultant, Lumberjack assisted the cities of **Antigo** (8,600 pop.) and **Merrill** (10,000 pop.) to develop and implement comprehensive urban forest management plans.

The village of **Howard** (9,900 pop.) has developed an innovative partnership with the local utility company and a number of Wisconsin nurseries. This unique partnership started with a story published in the *Green Bay Press Gazette* which noted that the village would some day like to develop an arboretum at a local park. A number of nurseries contacted the village forester and offered to donate trees for the arboretum. To date, seven nurseries and the **Wisconsin Public Service Cooperation** have donated over 50 trees and have pledged to do more. The Howard Arboretum is rapidly taking shape and has gone from a newspaper article to reality in one year.

Awareness

58 grants totaling \$665,000 funded a wide variety of community and nonprofit projects affecting more than one million people. Projects ranged from inventories and management plans to training and awareness workshops and tree planting. The state grant administrative rules were also amended to facilitate grants to small, nonprofit organizations.

The 1999 urban forestry workshops attracted a new audience: engineers! Of the 500 participants in **Protecting Trees During Construction**, nearly 100 were from community engineering departments and the state Department of Transportation. At one of the workshops, an engineer was overheard to say, "*Ya know, six hours ago, I wouldn't have even thought twice about any of this stuff.*"

Outreach and Environmental Equity

In **Milwaukee**, (628,000 pop.) Lynden Hill was recently selected as the newest **Urban Tree House** location. A partnership with dozens of organizations, including federal, state and local government agencies, universities, industries and the surrounding neighborhood, will provide environmental education to metropolitan Milwaukee's youth.

Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

The level of urban forest management improved over the year. Twenty-two new communities started urban forestry activities this year. Nine new communities began forming an on-going program and six new communities achieved a sustained program.

North central Wisconsin's **Portage County** (65,000 pop.) has about a dozen local governments which all have different, independent land use plans. Lack of coordinated development threatened area greenspace, so the governments joined together to develop an area-wide open space plan.

The plan identifies appropriate protection, including land acquisition, purchase of development rights and zoning. This open space plan will serve to guide community growth, accommodate the public need for open space and ensure a healthy, attractive community environment into the future.

The town of **Wilson** (3,000 pop.) and the **Sheboygan Area Land Conservancy** (SALC) joined together to develop an urban forestry public awareness program focusing on native ecosystems. Wilson's Park and Forestry Commission developed a native landscaping demonstration project on property adjacent to the town hall.

The SALC developed a registry program that encourages, educates and honors landowners for their stewardship efforts in protecting and restoring native trees and shrubs on their property, maintaining agricultural lands and preserving the cultural heritage of the area.



The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council planted three trees in honor of retired State Forester Charlie Higgs.

The council recognized Higgs for his work on initiating and supporting Wisconsin's urban forestry program. Higgs (back row, left) and his granddaughter (front) took an active part in the planting at Heritage Hill State Park.

1999 URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

Focused Federal Assistance

Demonstration projects developed in collaboration with state agencies.

State: Indiana

Title: Keep Indianapolis Beautiful Tree Program

Amount Funded: \$35,000

The Keep Indianapolis Beautiful program provides money to different groups with ties to trees and urban forestry. Examples include Indianapolis GREEN, Trees to Furniture, and Trees for Tomorrow. Each program provides an approach towards preservation, proper harvesting techniques and community planting projects. Federal assistance helped make these programs a permanent part of the organization.

State: Iowa

Title: Forestry Connections (A Forestry Interactive Field Trip and Action Project)

Amount Funded: \$30,000

With this assistance, Iowa educates the youth of the state about forestry practices by holding a series of interactive field trips. Iowa provides extensive material supplementing standard classroom activities. The program goal is for students to be able to develop forestry action projects for their schools and communities.

State: Maryland

Title: Wildland/Urban Interface Assessment Utilizing GIS Technology

Amount Funded: \$35,000

Using geographic information system (GIS) and ArcView Technology, Maryland is conducting a statewide fire prevention planning assessment that focuses on the state interface/intermix areas. Results will be used to develop an ignition management-planning model for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service.

State: New Jersey

Title: Urban Watershed Management Planning Model

Amount Funded: \$35,000

This model will assist local and regional decision-makers, planners and natural resource managers in conducting watershed analysis and assessments by developing land assessments, recommendations and best management guidelines for the urban forest component of one watershed management area. The model will also help individuals better understand the roles of trees, forests, and management activities on a watershed unit.

States: Pennsylvania and Delaware

Title: Grant Tracking Databases Demonstration Project in Delaware and Pennsylvania

Amount Funded: \$30,000

A structure for monitoring community forestry grants already exists in Delaware through the grants tracking database (GTD). Using Delaware as a model, Pennsylvania will replicate the database for its own use. In addition, Delaware will build a user interface to make the database more user friendly and accessible. The GTD Demonstration Project will benefit both state and federal urban and community forestry programs by enhancing their ability to develop and implement program strategies. In particular, the database supports the state coordinator's program objectives and strategies by providing an efficient method for storing and managing program information.

St. Paul Field Office

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The St. Paul Field Office (SPFO) of the Northeastern Area covers the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and Iowa. The office provides assistance to state urban forestry coordinators, councils, and volunteer contacts to enhance and support program delivery in urban and community forestry. Field office staff members facilitate the sharing of information and ideas, and provide technical assistance among agencies and organizations in the region.

Urban Forestry Working Group - The working group serves as a forum to share and discuss information about urban forestry, explore regional issues across program areas, and create opportunities to work together on collaborative, multi-disciplinary projects. The group includes staff members from the urban forestry, forest health protection, stewardship, conservation education, and wood utilization program areas within the SPFO, and functions as a catalyst to improve awareness of urban forestry activities and foster creative and integrated approaches to program delivery.

An example of its synergistic effect is the initiation of the "Backyard Woods" project campaign. The effort involves many members of the working group (and other public and private partners), and targets landowners and homeowners with up to ten acres of land to make them aware of forest stewardship opportunities and inspire them to take actions to manage forest resources in urban and urban-rural interface areas.

Hazard Tree Management Program: Urban Hazard Tree Manual - A multi-agency working group is developing a comprehensive training manual for community leaders and administrators, parks and public works staff, and private tree care practitioners to assist them in the design, adoption and implementation of community hazard tree management programs. This working group was assembled to address the need to develop a training manual that presents scientifically-based hazard tree management information in a practical, user-friendly format, specifically tailored to the unique features of urban and community forests. The manual is slated for completion the summer of 2001.

Disaster Assistance - In partnership with the National Arbor Day Foundation and the International Society of Arboriculture, staff at the SPFO supported the development of the "Storm Recovery — Trees" media kit for use in newspapers and other print media. The kit contains stories and illustrations appropriate for use immediately after storms, and then later as communities recover and cleanup damage.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Minnesota Interagency Living Snow Fence Task Force completed the "Catching the Snow with Living Snow Fences" guidebook. The guidebook helps natural resource professionals plan, design, establish, and maintain living snow fences for locations that have blowing snow problems that lead to hazardous road conditions.

Community Future Forum - Together with the USDA Forest Service Southern Region, the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council and other partners, SPFO staff works to identify and build new partnerships and have dialogue about future urban forestry issues and opportunities. The project uses virtual conferencing, facilitated discussions, and thought-provoking commentaries to generate and collect ideas. A final report will be developed by the summer of 2000.

Strategic Planning Assistance - SPFO staff assisted the Tree Trust (nonprofit organization), Michigan Urban Forest Council, and Minnesota Society of Arboriculture in organizational development and strategic planning.

Utilization and Marketing - The first national Wood Waste Utilization Conference was held March 2-3, 1999, and was sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The focus of the conference was to promote better utilization of woody materials that are typically landfilled. SPFO staff assisted with program development for the conference, provided two technical presentations and served as a workshop moderator.

Conservation Education - Since the late 1800's both urban and rural forests in the Northeast have been affected by the Gypsy Moth. Through funding provided by the Northeastern Area Forest Health focus funds and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, and in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Department of Agricultural Science, a series of nine Gypsy Moth Classroom Activities have been developed. The activities cover topics such as: life cycle of the Gypsy Moth, control mechanisms, biological-social-economic impacts of defoliation, public attitudes towards the Gypsy Moth, definition of a quarantine, movement of the Gypsy Moth across the United States, and effects of other nonnative insects. The activities may be downloaded from: <http://www.uwrf.edu/ag-education/resource/>.

St. Paul Field Office Website - The SPFO website includes information on the Asian Longhorned Beetle, the Community Future Forum, urban forestry technical materials, and links to many urban forestry resources. The website logged more than 34,000 visitors each month. The website can be visited at <http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu>.

Urban Forest Health Publications

"How To Collect Field Samples and Identify the Oak Wilt Fungus in the Laboratory". 1999. NA-FR-01-99. USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry, St. Paul, MN. 12pp.

"Dutch Elm Disease (DED) and the American Elm." 1999. NA-PR-05-99. USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry, Morgantown, WV and St. Paul, MN.

"Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*): A New Introduction." 1999. NA-PR-01-99. USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry, Radnor, PA.

Morgantown Field Office

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The Morgantown Field Office covers the states of Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Among other activities, the office provides assistance to the state urban forestry coordinators to enhance and support program delivery in urban and community forestry. Field office staff members facilitate the sharing of information and ideas, and provide technical assistance among agencies and organizations in the region.

Accomplishments for 1999:

Newsletter - Providing increased communication between the office and its partners, four issues of the newsletter "*Urban Projects from the Morgantown Field Office*" were distributed during 1999. The newsletter includes field office staff activities, current events and news from each of the Mid-Atlantic States, the District of Columbia and the special initiatives in the subregion (Revitalizing Baltimore, NE Pennsylvania Forestry Project, Kiski Basin and Environs, and the Upper Muskingum Watershed project.)

Media Outreach Efforts - Efforts were undertaken in 1999 to increase the visibility in the media of various Forest Service State and Private Forestry programs. Power Point presentations were given across the region providing tips and hints on working with the media, as well as reasons for enlisting media outreach as a tool for increasing awareness and public understanding of federal-state partnership programs. Some of the presentations were specific to urban forestry professionals, while others were made to more traditional forestry audiences such as university faculty and Forestry Association members. Various other media activities included news releases and distribution of information to selected media outlets.

Urban Forest Health Monitoring - In 1999, two innovative forest health-monitoring projects were funded to assess the management needs and health of trees in Maryland. The first project was carried out in cooperation with staff in Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) and examined "non-forest" plots within the six-county Baltimore area. The second effort focused on roadside trees in the Baltimore/Washington corridor. These are significant initiatives because currently, neither FIA nor Forest Health Monitoring collects forest/tree information from urban areas; consequently, a gap exists in our knowledge of conditions within the urban area.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dutch Elm Disease – In 1999, the Morgantown Field Office provided financial and technical assistance to the District of Columbia Department of Public Works, Trees and Landscape Division to assist in implementing their Disease Management Program. Forest Service staff worked directly with city staff to manage the disease by promptly removing dead and dying elms infested by the beetle that spread the disease. Field crews conducted inspections and city employees pruned newly infected elms. Approximately 490 elms were removed.

Hazard Tree Management Program – Forest Health staff assisted with seven hazard tree education sessions during 1999. Beyond the Mid-Atlantic States, staff lectured at the Urban Forestry Summer Institute at Southern University in Baton Rouge Louisiana. Discussions with professionals and city managers led to the development of presentations on decay fungi of urban trees and steps for creating hazard tree policies for cities.

Gypsy Moth in Ohio – Staff entomologists and forest health specialists worked closely with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to prepare citizens for the increased gypsy moth activity that is predicted for northern Ohio in the coming years. Public meetings to answer questions and concerns have been held in northeastern Ohio. Publications describing the effects of gypsy moth on the environment and explaining gypsy moth control methods have been written and distributed to citizen groups and local governments.

Cuyahoga American Heritage River - In response to the Cuyahoga River in Ohio being designated an American Heritage River, the Forest Service and staff at the Morgantown Field Office are coordinating the agencies and volunteer organizations working to improve the environmental, economic and social value of the river. An American Heritage River Partner's group has been formed, consisting of five nonprofit organizations that will ensure that local community interests are met.

Marketing and Utilization- The goal of this project is to provide municipalities with marketing and technical assistance to recycle street trees and generate income through the production and merchandizing of sawlogs. Information about this initiative was presented at several workshops and conferences. A 52-page guidebook "Recycling Municipal Trees: A Guide for Marketing Sawlogs from Street Tree Removals in Municipalities," was distributed to attendees.

Urban Forest Health Publications

"Dutch Elm Disease (DED) and the American Elm." 1999. NA-PR-05-99. USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry, Morgantown, WV and St. Paul, MN.

"Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*): A New Introduction." 1999. NA-PR-01-99. USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry, Radnor, PA.

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The Durham Field Office covers the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York. Among other activities, the office provides assistance to the state urban forestry coordinators to enhance and support program delivery in urban and community forestry. Field office staff members facilitate the sharing of information and ideas, and provide technical assistance among agencies and organizations in the region.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Little River Watershed - A pilot project was completed with the Town of North Hampton, NH to quantify the effects of urban sprawl over a period of several decades. The objective was to assist the community with making decisions about future growth by projecting the impacts that land use change will create over time. Techniques used included active public involvement in visioning and planning sessions, and mapping and analysis of resources using satellite imagery, aerial photography and GIS.

Asian Longhorned Beetle Project in New York City - Reforestation efforts funded by the US Forest Service have continued in New York City, Amityville, and Babylon to help these communities replace trees lost to this invasive pest. Field office staff are working with local organizations and agencies to increase public awareness about the beetle. A conference is being planned for the spring of 2000 to be hosted by New York ReLeaf. Through a grant to the Environmental Action Coalition, school curriculum and brochures in five languages have been created to increase public awareness of the Asian longhorned beetle.

Land Trust Demonstration Forests - With assistance from the Stewardship program, four demonstration forests are being created in Massachusetts in cooperation with the Trustees of Reservations to provide areas where landowners and municipal officials can learn about the development of stewardship plans for municipal forests, and to demonstrate the link between people and their environment.

Hazard Tree Train-the-Trainer Workshops - Forest Health staff participated in three training sessions that were attended by 105 resources managers and community leaders. The sessions taught practitioners how to identify and address hazard tree problems.

Eco Heroes - Staff from the USDA Forest Service and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management have planned the Eco Heroes Program to strengthen the connection between Boston urban youth and the urban forest. This program is modeled from the award-winning program, centered in Los Angeles, California. Youth from the greater Boston area will participate in restoration and education activities that give them a better understanding of urban, state and national forests.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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Ice Storm Recovery Program

Staff at the Durham Field Office have continued to support restoration activities following the January 1998 ice storm that devastated 17 million acres of rural and community forests across four States. Most communities lack funds and expertise to plan for and restore the long-term health and productivity of their forest resources affected by this storm. Forestry specialists from the Forest Service, Northeastern Area in Durham, New Hampshire, determined damage estimates and financial needs for each State, developed information for the public, Congress, and the media, and provided technical information and coordination for the four-state region.

The Forest Service immediately provided \$800,000 to help assess the damage and make plans for recovery and restoration. A bipartisan congressional delegation from across the region secured roughly \$48 million in emergency appropriations to assist state recovery efforts.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Maine - The storm damaged more than 11 million acres in Maine. All 16 of the State's counties were declared disaster areas. 48 communities in the damage area received grants to assess damage, inventory existing resources, and develop and implement restoration plans. Workshops have been presented to towns and arborists on diagnosing and managing ice storm related tree health problems, hazard tree identification, and damage assessments.

New Hampshire - The storm damaged 700,000 acres in New Hampshire and nine counties were declared disaster areas. New Hampshire is emphasizing a comprehensive approach to recovery including assessment, planning, and restoration. An Ice Storm Response Center was created through the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Service.

New York - The storm damaged 4.6 million acres of forests and six counties were declared disaster areas. Nine staff members were hired to work on Forest Stewardship, Community Forest Health Management, Rural Development, and Urban and Forestry Programs.

Vermont - The storm damaged 944,000 acres in Vermont and five counties were declared disaster areas. Vermont has a full-time ice storm recovery coordinator. The Backyard Forest Stewardship Program assists landowners who own under 25 acres that sustained ice storm damage. A roadside vegetation manual has been developed to assist rural highway crews.

FIELD OFFICES

	ME	NH	NY	VT
Federal Funds (in thousands)	\$5,300	\$1,100	\$1,400	\$610
Communities Assisted	94	198	46	46
Number of Grants	76	50	62	31
Number of Workshops	2	10	11	19
Training Hours	230	520	1,515	3,600

Mid-Atlantic Center of Excellence

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The Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry, located at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, conducts urban forestry advocacy, education, research and demonstration programs serving local, state and regional needs. The Center location at the Morris Arboretum brings the resources of an internationally-known university arboretum to the Forest Service. This public/private partnership enhanced the capacity of each organization to deliver information and technical assistance to a broad range of constituencies concerned with natural resources management.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Directed the Northeastern Pennsylvania Community Forestry Program with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and the USDA Forest Service. In its fifth year, this award winning grant program continues to effectively integrate natural resources management with regional economic and social revitalization.

Chaired the Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership providing financial, technical and educational resources to Philadelphia communities involved in natural resources management and education.

Provided assistance to State Urban and Community Forestry Councils in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania by working with the State urban forestry coordinators to implement their program goals and plans. Received focus funding for the development and implementation of a model Grant Tracking Database which will support and enhance program reporting in Delaware and Pennsylvania.

Presented Arboricultural Training seminars and workshops offered in Delaware, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, reaching 643 professional tree managers. Completed tree assessments in four states and National Park Service properties. Represented the American Society of Consulting Arborists to develop the American National Standard Institute's (ANSI A-300) woody plant maintenance standards of practice.

Provided education for professionals, community members, and youth. Ecosystem-based Management training was provided to state and local audiences; 80 courses related to land management, riparian restoration, horticulture, design, plant science and plant care were attended by 1,580 adults, representing five states in the Mid-Atlantic region. 6,485 youth were educated on urban conservation issues.

Midwest Center of Excellence

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The mission of the Midwest Center for Urban and Community Forestry is to identify information needs, facilitate and support new and existing research, and coordinate the exchange of information. The Center serves Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota and Wisconsin. In September 1999, the Center relocated to St. Paul, Minnesota from Chicago, Illinois and is a partnership with the University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Provided technical and financial assistance to congressional initiatives in Illinois including Chicago Wilderness, and Mayor Daley's GreenStreets Program. In addition, Center personnel cochair the Urban Resources Partnership in Chicago.

Coordinated and developed a national communications strategy for the Urban and Community Forestry Program. The strategy is designed to provide guidance and suggestions for improving communications to target audiences as well as improving capacity for internal communications efforts.

Co-hosted a national conference on Financing the Urban Forest with the National Arbor Day Foundation. This conference featured experts in funding opportunities for urban natural resources conservation from the private foundation, corporate and public sectors. 90 people representing a diversity of urban forestry organizations participated in this two-day workshop.

Assisted in the greening efforts of Ravenswood, Chicago, a neighborhood devastated by the loss of trees to the Asian longhorned beetle. Provided technical and financial assistance to community leaders and the city of Chicago. Over 850 trees have been replanted on private and public property in Ravenswood.

Provided technical and financial assistance to the development of two publications: "A Guide to Street Tree Inventory Software" and "Illinois Small Community Tree Program: Attitudes, Status and Needs." Both publications have been distributed nationwide.

Assisted on the planning committee for Stewardship Days, an event sponsored by several local, state and federal agencies and designed to introduce urban youth to natural resources conservation. Stewardship Days received the Outstanding Program Award from the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association.

Northeast Center of Excellence

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The Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, located on the campus of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, is a cooperative partnership of the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, the six New England States and New York, and the University of Massachusetts. The Mission of the Center is to respond to urban and community forestry information needs, facilitate and support new and existing research, and coordinate the exchange of information among the states that contributes to healthy, sustainable communities. The principal field of focus has been urban forestry assessment tools, management, and technology.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Conducted Hazard Tree Assessment Workshops, in New York and Massachusetts, for state natural resource personnel, municipal foresters, and state transportation agency staff. These workshops provided training materials, lectures, and field demonstrations illustrating principles of hazard tree identification, management, response and prevention.

Hosted a regional summit meeting on the State of the Urban Forest titled "The Urban Forest Under Attack: Natural Factors and Forces" that focused awareness on timely threats to the health and sustainability of urban and community forests. The meeting included lectures on hemlock wooly adelgid, Asian longhorned beetle, drought and storm events, and included field visits to several sites that provided examples of urban trees exhibiting evidence of stress due to natural factors and forces.

Provided assistance to the Ice Storm Recovery Initiative through the advertisement, coordination and monitoring of grant programs for urban and community forestry projects in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York. These grants include the development of a homeowner guide to tree replacement, assistance in the development of an emergency response manual for disaster specialists, volunteer-based inventory training, and the development of a standardized storm damage assessment tool.

Developed a computerized tree inventory protocol and template for conducting urban and community forest inventories that can be used by small to medium sized communities to track the composition, condition and management needs of trees growing along streets and parks. This initiative included field-testing of the model in several communities in the region.

Greater Boston URP

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The Greater Boston Urban Resources Partnership is a coalition of community organizations, agencies, businesses, and federal, state, and local governments. The mission is to help urban communities carry out strategies that link social, economic, and environmental concerns. In 1999, more than 39 partners worked together on economically sustainable projects and initiatives that enhanced the quality of life and fostered diverse community involvement through innovative collaborations. The Greater Boston URP uses a teamwork approach to deliver services and mobilize leadership in support of the urban environment.

Since 1995, these goals have been achieved with less than 15% of the Partnership's cumulative budget allotted to program administration. More than \$696,900 in USDA funds have been granted to urban natural resources projects. With additional matching money, the Greater Boston URP has played a significant role in at least \$1.8 million of urban natural resources projects since 1995.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Funded seven grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

Water in the City

Urban Garden Connections and Somerville Public Schools involved more than 200 urban youth in education efforts, planting days, and the construction of a solar powered fountain in an after-school program at the Somerville Growing Center.

EarthWorks Projects

EarthWorks staff planted trees, shrubs, vines and perennials at three sites: the McLaughlin Playground, the Boston Nature Center and the Holland School. Students from 21 classes worked to install the plantings at the Holland School plantings.

Leveraged Financial Resources for Community Groups

The Greater Boston URP leveraged federal, state, and city resources and foundation support to add value to both watershed protection efforts and natural resource enhancement efforts.

Coordinated Technical Assistance Resources

Each of the 40 organizations, agencies, business, and governmental groups participating in the Greater Boston URP committed a technical or financial resource to selected projects. This commitment actively engaged each partner in community based projects.

Buffalo URP

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The Urban Resources Partnership (URP) of Buffalo is a team of federal, state and local agencies and organizations formed to enhance the region's environment and quality of life through innovative public and private partnerships. This is accomplished by supporting community action and sustainable projects that preserve, restore, and revitalize the natural resources of Buffalo.

The URP of Buffalo's natural resource goals are to:

- help the region use limited federal, state, and local resources effectively through a more efficient delivery of technical, financial, and educational assistance,
- assist community efforts to conserve, restore, and revitalize natural resources in urban areas,
- expand and diversify natural resource partnerships,
- encourage sustainable urban greening projects that improve and enhance community, access and recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and ecosystem integrity, and
- demonstrate the relationship between environmental quality and the quality of life.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Community-Based Environmental Projects

The URP of Buffalo completed the administrative and organizational framework necessary to support community-based environmental projects. Strong emphasis was placed on community partnerships in the first request for proposals. Proposals were distributed widely to block clubs, community centers, community groups, and a cross section of Buffalo area government agencies, businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

Natural Resource Improvements

The URP of Buffalo recommended its first set of 18 projects for cost-sharing. A total of \$281,000 was awarded and matching funds committed for a total investment of \$562,000 in Buffalo's urban natural resources. When completed, these projects will:

- add to the city's tree stock, and help cool and clean the air,
- improve soil quality, infiltration and minimize erosion,
- add new, or restore existing green space for neighborhoods and city-wide passive and recreational use,
- supplement the area's wildlife habitat, and
- educate school children and young adults, community organizations and residents about the environment and the importance of natural resources in the city.

Chicago URP

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The Chicago Urban Resources Partnership has sponsored over 70 projects since its inception in 1994. With the help of a diverse interagency and community partnership, the Chicago URP has engaged in wide ranging programs with a strong emphasis on the restoration and physical improvements to greenspaces. In 1999 URP sponsored 10 additional community-based environmental projects.

Accomplishments in 1999:

The Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences Nature Trail

The Chicago High School is in the process of developing a nature trail extending approximately 2,500 feet. The trail border will consist of diverse native plant species and will intersect naturalistic environments including a wetland, savanna, and a glacial prairie as well as several agricultural demonstrations.

Comprehensive Greencorps Chicago River Restoration Program

Through this project, Greencorps workers will be trained in river restoration techniques. In addition, the project focuses on wetland installation, increasing biodiversity, reducing soil erosion, providing a model and laboratory for enhancing habitat, and developing maintenance and monitoring protocols of the Chicago River's edge.

The Chicago Park District Ecological Restoration Program

Ecological work consisting of the control of invasive plant species, development of plant lists, planting native plant species, adding wildlife amenities, public outreach, and completion of long term monitoring plans will take place at three ongoing sites in the Chicago area.

St. Joseph's Creek Restoration

Plans are underway for a restoration that will reintroduce native vegetation to the creek banks, use bioengineering techniques, remove invasive woody species, and create interpretive signage and educational programming for the site.

Raceway Woods

This 92 acre site contains a diverse ecology including stands of white walnut, wetlands, hillside steepes, and streams. The property lies in the northern portion of an old racetrack complex. Plans are underway for the restoration of areas seriously disturbed by past land-use patterns, and will include educational outreach to the local community and the Dundee Crown High School.

East St. Louis URP

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The East St. Louis Partnership advocates and assists community-based action through local partnerships to enhance, restore, and sustain urban ecosystems in the East St. Louis Metropolitan Area. These actions contribute to the improvement of the social, economic, and physical health of the residents and the natural environment.

East St. Louis URP natural resources goals are:

- managing urban ecosystems to protect, restore, enhance, create, and sustain floodplains, wetlands, forests, and green lands,
- creating job opportunities and sustainable economic development related to natural resource opportunities,
- providing information and technical assistance for urban community planning and environmental restoration efforts, and
- improving urban ecosystem information and citizens' understanding of the urban environment, and the relationships between their actions and their natural surroundings.

Accomplishments in 1999:

East St. Louis Wetlands Project

The purpose of the East St. Louis Wetlands Project is to clean and restore existing wetlands. The project will create attractive wetland areas that improve habitat for wildlife and help control local flooding. The Wetlands Park and Trail have already been completed as a part of this initiative. Another goal of this project is to educate the community on the importance and functions of wetlands and to foster a local sense of land stewardship. Production of a booklet and video on urban wetland function and restoration is underway.

Dry Hydrant Installation

Dry hydrants are water hydrants connected to existing water sources such as lakes or ponds. They provide a back up water source to standard hydrants connected to the public water system. Dry hydrants are capable of providing water pressure equal to that of standard hydrants. Ten dry hydrants have been installed in several areas of East St. Louis, and local fire departments have been trained on effective use of the hydrants. These hydrants will provide firefighters and communities with another tool to fight fires, lower insurance premiums for homeowners, save energy and conserve water.

New York City URP

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In New York City, URP is working in partnership with six other Federal and State agencies to stimulate intergovernmental cooperation and community action by encouraging urban environmental revitalization efforts. The objective of this initiative is to improve the environmental quality of life in under-served communities in the city by providing technical and financial support to local community groups.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Jamaica Bay

Jamaica Bay is a vast natural resource area with limited community awareness and collaboration between government agencies, community-based organizations, educators and residents. Five separate subgrantees are dealing with a wide array of environmental education and restoration projects, including a migratory bird haven and water quality monitoring program.

Bronx River

NYC Parks Commissioner named 1999 the Year of the Bronx River. Thirteen subgrant projects are underway along various River points from Westchester County to Hunts Point in the South Bronx. Their efforts spurred New York State Department of Transportation to conduct a Greenway Study along a section of the River that will become part of a trail system.

South Bronx Environmental Restoration

Environmental restoration in the South Bronx continues through a variety of projects.

Andrew Freedman Home Grounds Restoration. Site improvements and significant horticultural improvements were completed on the Andrew Freedman Home Grounds Restoration project.

Rock Garden Park. Designs have been finalized for the restoration of Rock Garden Park and phase I of construction is underway. Approximately \$3 million has been leveraged from local elected officials, government agencies and private sources for this project.

Bronx River/Zooway. Work continues on the Zooway Corridor. A new link was forged between the local community and the Bronx River through a series of community cleanups and the establishment of a West Farms Friends of the Bronx River group. As part of this project a former trash-filled lot has been transformed into a garden, environmental classroom, and riverfront access point.

Philadelphia URP

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Philadelphia
Urban
Resources
Partnership

The Philadelphia URP helps enhance the quality of life in the City of Philadelphia through community involvement and interagency coordination. The Philadelphia URP recommended seven new community environmental education programs for funding this year. In addition, Under-Secretary James Lyons helped Philadelphia URP launch the new Green Land Initiative. Three community development corporations will work with the Philadelphia URP to transform abandoned vacant lots to clean and green open space resources. Until funding for new projects was finalized in fall 1999, Philadelphia URP continued to work with seven previously funded community projects.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Created a tree nursery on vacant land for Hancraft Elementary School in North Philadelphia. The 2-acre tree nursery now contains 2,700 seedlings and over 60 large trees. These trees will eventually be replanted within the community. As a supplement to this program, 300 children attended environmental workshops.

Removed 32 hazardous trees and stumps to make way for 10 new street trees in the Oak Lane neighborhood.

Worked with 120 students from three elementary schools in West Philadelphia who discovered nature in West Fairmount through a Saturday morning program run by a volunteer group, the Friends of West Park.

Reconstructed a silt-filled pond to create a biological teaching pond. Improvements addressed safety issues and will allow the pond to become a center for environmental service learning activities at Edison High School and other schools in the Edison cluster.

Held lessons at the New Kensington Garden Center about natural resources in the community for 650 students and 25 teachers from four schools.

Restored woodlands and introduced a new urban forestry curriculum at Awbury Arboretum.

Worked with 14 Lincoln High School students who participated in service learning internships to survey, plan, and plant new trees in the community.

National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council Grants

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) is the official advisory body to the Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture. The Northeastern Area administers NUCFAC Challenge Cost-Share Grants located in the 20 states and District of Columbia.

NUCFAC Challenge Grants Awarded for Projects in 1999:

Pennsylvania State University received a grant of \$59,478 to explore and report on the social bases for urban forestry in ethnic minority populations. Researchers will complete surveys of Hispanic, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese communities in Philadelphia and Atlanta.

The Davey Resources Group was awarded \$32,115 to study and report on the influence of trees on rental rates of commercial properties in Northeast Ohio. The information will be used to develop a deeper understanding of the value of urban trees and landscaping.

The E Resources Group in Iowa, received a \$76,750 grant to produce EARTHCenter News, an environmental news series of twelve TV segments on urban forestry. The segments will be piloted in the Chicago and Des Moines TV markets.

The nonprofit **Greening of Detroit** was awarded \$13,000 to develop and implement a model community forestry internship program. The model will provide educators and conservation organizations with the tools to train graduates and strengthen urban restoration efforts.

The American Forest Foundation in Washington, DC, received a grant of \$104,529 to further develop a service-learning campaign called GreenWorks! A manual will be produced and distributed in English and Spanish, to be incorporated into local school reform efforts.

Resource Conservation and Development for Northeast Iowa, Inc., was awarded \$50,000 to turn urban trees into household furniture. The group will work with Spectrum Industries to develop a business plan and wood-working capacity, and train instructors.

The nonprofit **Trees New York** received a grant of \$58,830 to develop and market an innovative bicycle rack that doubles as a tree guard. The attractive street furniture will also protect trees from damage caused by chaining bikes to trees.

The nonprofit **American Forests**, based in Washington, DC, was awarded a \$50,000 grant to initiate projects in the Puget Sound and Chesapeake Bay regions that will help rural and urban community leaders identify shared objectives and actions that bridge community differences.

Michigan Integrated Food & Farming Systems, Inc., received a \$53,200 grant to establish fruit orchards on vacant lots in Detroit. The project will demonstrate how edible urban forests can contribute to neighborhood revitalization.

The Research Trust of the International Society of Arboriculture was awarded \$125,200 to coordinate an assessment of current and past urban and community forestry research, and update the national research agenda.

The Kiski Basin & Environs Initiative

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The Kiski Basin & Environs Initiative is a special project located in Johnstown, Pennsylvania administered by the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy, in cooperation with Penn State University, the Pennsylvania Urban & Community Forestry Council, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) – Bureau of Forestry, and various local partners within the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin and the overlying 12th Congressional District in Southwestern Pennsylvania (6 counties). Historically, the economy of the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin revolved around heavy industry. With the recent decline of the coal and steel industry, tourism and recreation has begun to emerge as a viable, and desirable, economy.

The initiative is addressing several issues including: preservation and establishment of eco-tourism services and facilities, riparian corridor preservation/revegetation, dry fire hydrant installation, urban tree plantings/maintenance, environmental education/public awareness, sprawl, and forest fragmentation. A geographic information system is utilized as a tool for cultural and natural resource management for the initiative. Project partners provide technical assistance to local units of government and community organizations for the planning and development of program activities. The Kiski Initiative continues to maintain a commitment to the communities throughout the region by making grants available to multiple communities with diverse project interests instead of supporting just one or two massive projects.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Watershed Geographic Information System (GIS). In partnership with the Pennsylvania DCNR, West Virginia University, and the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy – a comprehensive GIS for the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin was developed to assess natural resources within the basin.

Stream Team Environmental Education Program. In partnership with the AmeriCorps national service program, a basin-wide education/ecological assessment program has been developed to include local schools and volunteer groups in assessing their local ecosystems through water sampling and riparian corridor surveys.

Urban and Community Forestry and Rural Development Programs. Sixteen projects have begun in the region ranging from street tree plantings and trailhead improvements to handicapped accessible nature trails.

State Fire Assistance. A dry fire hydrant program was developed to assist fire departments in fire suppression and reduce insurance rates in communities with inadequate hydrant access.

Revitalizing Baltimore

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Restoring Our Environment, Restoring Our Communities

Revitalizing Baltimore (RB) is a special project funded by the USDA Forest Service and managed by the Parks & People Foundation in cooperation with the Maryland State Forester. This national model for community forestry and watershed restoration equips people to care for natural resources and revitalize their own neighborhoods. The project is a partnership between the Maryland Forest Service, Baltimore City and County, nonprofit organizations, watershed associations, businesses, and academic institutions. RB actively reaches out to culturally diverse communities to help residents plant trees along streets and streams, monitor water quality, convert vacant lots into community green space, improve neighborhood parks, and support youth education programs to foster stewardship of natural resources.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Funded thirteen grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000.

Supported Community Forestry through community organizing, technical assistance, training, and logistical support resulting in planting over 2,000 trees in three urban watersheds as part of 60 projects involving more than 3,000 volunteers. Two neighborhoods were targeted with resources to plant trees.

Collaborated with Watershed Associations to strengthen efforts in three regional watersheds-- Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls, and Herring Run. These community organizations organized riparian reforestation projects, held special events attracting more than 8,000 people, conducted educational outreach, and supported community participation in public decision making.

Promoted Environmental Stewardship through natural resource education training for teachers and reached over 1,500 youth in various environmental education programs. KidsGrow and EnviroKids, sponsored by the city Recreation and Parks Department, engaged 200 elementary and middle school students in neighborhood environmental stewardship activities in after school programs and summer day camps.

Provided Resource Information with the distribution of the Gwynns Falls Watershed Ecological Resource Atlas and organized community information workshops. Development of the Gwynns Falls Urban Forest Management Plan was continued by applying Baltimore County's forest conservation ranking methodology. Staff members presented the RB case study at several national conferences.

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New York City Watersheds

A major component of the New York City water supply system is the watershed areas that provide high quality water to the metropolitan region. The watersheds produce more than a billion gallons of water daily while providing wildlife habitat, forest products, recreation, and scenic beauty. Preservation of water quality at the source is a primary strategy used by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to meet clean drinking water standards.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Provided education and outreach for New York City residents, environmental activists, and absentee landowners to build an understanding of the important relationship between land use and water quality. This included tours in the watersheds, a Watershed Institute for Teachers, and seminars for private forest landowners.

Developed four Model Forests located throughout the watershed areas showcasing forest management techniques to protect water quality and sustain ecosystem health. These sites support research through permanent forest inventory plots and experimental treatments.

New York - New Jersey Highlands

This regional landscape of forest and farmland forms a greenbelt west of the metropolitan areas of New Jersey and New York City. Current patterns of urbanization and land-use change threaten the sustainability of natural resource systems and associated quality of life. The protection of water quality, prevention of forest fragmentation, and development of conservation strategies are critical to retain and restore valuable landscape components.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Completed a series of focus group meetings and one-on-one interviews with a range of stakeholders in cooperation with the Regional Plan Association. The resulting report helps to refocus the needs for "Creating A Forestry Agenda for the NY - NJ Highlands."

Planned a spatial analysis project to identify important subareas where land conservation efforts are needed. Contacts will be made with communities to share this resource information and provide assistance for community-based conservation projects.

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In response to the President's call for action in 1997 and reaffirmed in the 1998 State of the Union Address, the U.S. Department of Agriculture developed a special project to renew the Nation's Capital City. The Plan of Action in the District of Columbia builds on successful existing programs and creates new ones by establishing partnerships among community groups, local government, and federal agencies. The Plan of Action consist of three initiatives and a pilot project: an Urban Environmental Resources Initiative, an Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Initiative, and a Citizen Service and Volunteerism initiative, and the Education for Sustainability Pilot Project. These programs support natural resource management and community sustainability.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Dutch Elm Disease

The Forest Service-Northeastern Area provided financial and technical assistance to the Department of Public Works- Trees and Landscape Division to assist the city in implementing their Disease Management Program. Dutch Elm Disease is managed by promptly removing dead and dying elms infested by the beetle that spread the disease. Approximately 490 elms have been removed.

CITYgreen

The CITYgreen computer software program, used to analyze ecological conditions in urban areas, is one of the activities outlined in the plan and was funded through the Natural Resource Conservation Service. This software will help city managers access the necessary information to make the protection of the city's urban natural resources a top priority. Local natural resource managers now have a systematic way to map, measure, and calculate the economic benefits of their urban trees.

Earth Day

Earth Day 1999 was celebrated by planting 700 trees along the Anacostia River. This riparian restoration is part of the Chesapeake Bay Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative to plant 2010 miles of streamside trees by the year 2010. Additional conservation education activities and entertainment was provided for the nearly 100 participating elementary school students.

Education for Sustainability Pilot Project (South Africa)

Teachers from three Washington, DC, elementary schools traveled to South Africa to participate in a research project sponsored by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service. Eleven teachers spent the summer in South Africa to help researchers update a historic survey of that country's botanical diversity. The teachers studied plant taxonomy and ecology at the Southern African Wildlife College in Pretoria.

Asian Longhorned Beetle - Chicago

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Actual size of female and male Asian longhorned beetles

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB), a serious and widespread pest in China, has entered our country in the wooden packing material of imported goods from China. The beetle is devastating because it can kill its host tree, primarily maples, elms and willows, within a few years. Active infestations were found in the metropolitan areas of New York (1996) and Chicago (1998.) Currently, the most effective control measure is to cut down and destroy all infested trees. Intensive eradication activities are underway in the Chicago metropolitan areas.

In the Chicago metropolitan area, six separate infestations have been found. USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry staff are assisting US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the city of Chicago Bureau of Forestry with detection surveys, technical expertise, tree replanting and public outreach efforts.

Accomplishments in 1999:

1141 ALB infested trees have been identified and removed from public and private property within the Chicago metropolitan area as of October 1999. Identification of infested trees was eased with the assistance of the USDA Forest Service and state and local agency personnel. During the beetle's active period, infested trees were removed within 48 hours after detection. Early identification and removal of infested trees will be the key to eradicating ALB in Chicago.

850 trees have been replanted in Chicago neighborhoods infested with ALB. The plantings were funded by the US Forest Service and the city of Chicago. In the spring of 1999, the city of Chicago, the Morton Arboretum and the USDA Forest Service hosted a series of community meetings to seek public input into the replanting process and to disseminate information on proper tree planting and care. Tree planting will continue into the spring of fiscal year 2000.

The USDA Forest Service produced an updated "Asian Longhorned Beetle Pest Alert" in May of 1999. 300,000 copies of this two-sided color publication have been printed, more than 150,000 have been distributed.

An Asian longhorned beetle website (<http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu/asianbeetle/beetle.htm>) maintained by the USDA Forest Service provides up-to-date information on the Chicago infestation as well as general information about the Asian longhorned beetle.

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The Chicago GreenStreets Program addresses urban forestry needs in the region by focusing on improving the quality of urban living through tree planting and care, recycling, and open space revitalization. The ten-year-old initiative restores deteriorated neighborhoods and enhances public open space through public/private partnerships and community involvement. Mayor Daley's GreenStreets Program has been instrumental in the cooperative efforts to reforest Chicago neighborhoods devastated by the Asian longhorned beetle.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Tree Planting

More than 6,100 landscape size trees have been planted throughout Chicago. Over 1,000 trees resistant to the Asian longhorned beetle have been replanted in the buffer zone of the Ravenswood neighborhood, the community hardest hit by this invasive insect. Mayor Daley hosted a media event celebrating Arbor Day in this neighborhood, highlighting the importance of community participation and the benefits of urban trees.

Greening the Chicago River Locks

In the first documented tree planting of its kind along a major waterway, 81 trees and 30,000 perennials were planted in tree cribs along the Chicago River locks.

Technical Assistance

GreenStreets cooperated with the USDA Forest Service and the Morton Arboretum to provide the communities affected by the Asian longhorned beetle with tree selection, and tree planting information, and high quality landscape materials at no cost.

Expressway Partnership Program

GreenStreets initiated the Expressway Partnership Program, a cooperative venture between the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, and the Gateway Green Committee. This program includes tree planting and maintenance of landscaping along Chicago's miles of expressway, and a majority of the cost will be absorbed by corporations. GreenStreets was able to leverage an additional 2.28 million dollars from the Illinois Department of Transportation's Intermodal Transportation Enhancement Program for landscaping of the gateways into the city.

Median Planting Study

GreenStreets continues to partner with the Morton Arboretum to study the microclimate of median plantings along Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. A project is underway to identify tree species and maintenance regimes suited for median plantings in highly urbanized areas.

DePaul University

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The Urban Forestry Program of DePaul University has focused its efforts on studying the natural areas in the Chicago Metropolitan area and promoting their restoration, maintenance, and protection. In partnership with USDA Forest Service, Chicago Wilderness, the Lake Forest Open Lands Association, and other conservation organizations, the Program works to develop a practical understanding of urban natural areas and the science underlying the restoration and management of forests, prairies, wetlands, savannas, and river corridors.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Study of the Urban Ecosystem

Several research projects have been launched to study the structure and functions of Chicago's urban ecosystems.

- Over the coming years, students will participate in long-term monitoring of the Shaw Prairie in Lake Forest and other sites targeted for restoration. Through class projects, students will develop a comprehensive description of this important ecosystem, to understand ecological functioning along the transition between the urban forest and a remnant tallgrass prairie, and to monitor prairie restoration.
- In conjunction with the USDA Forest Service, DePaul researchers are working to determine the history of a riparian forest that courses through the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. They are studying how the forest is used by other species and the relative importance of the riparian zone to overall prairie ecology.
- Other investigators continue projects investigating the hydrology of savanna wetlands in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and the restoration of heavily degraded wetlands in the watershed of the Chicago River. These studies analyze an ecosystem's responses to urbanization and will lead to a better understanding of the ecology of cities.

Urban Ecology and Forestry Courses

Courses on Issues in Urban Forestry, Ecosystem Ecology, Environment of the Chicago River, Public Policy and Natural Resources are currently offered and several new classes are planned. The Program strives to provide students a theoretical and scientific background as well as practical experience in the field or laboratory. For example, students taking Issues in Urban Forestry began an extensive inventory of forested sites along an urban-suburban transect.

Chicago Wilderness

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Chicago Wilderness is the name for both the 200,000 acres of unique natural areas extending from northwestern Indiana through northeastern Illinois and southeastern Wisconsin and the name used by the coalition of 92 conservation organizations that have joined together to restore, protect and manage these lands. The Chicago Wilderness area provides habitat for 181 species listed as threatened or endangered in the State of Illinois and contains some of the best surviving examples of tall grass prairie and oak woodlands in the country.

Accomplishments in 1999:

Coordinated the completion of the Biodiversity Recovery Plan, a roadmap to restoring the long-term viability of natural communities in southeast Wisconsin, northeastern Illinois, and northwest Indiana. The Biodiversity Recovery Plan has been adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.

Funded, monitored, and collaborated on over 140 projects (33 in 1999) across Illinois and Indiana. Projects underway include: restoring 1.6 miles of Nippersink Creek in McHenry County, analyzing survey and satellite information to determine composition and structure of oak woodlands and to develop management objectives for restoring the biodiversity associated with oak ecosystems, and a NASA funded project using remote-sensing imagery to detect change in the Chicago region's landscape over a 25 year period.

Received the USDA Forest Service 1999 Outstanding Conservation Education Award for Mighty Acorns, a conservation education program designed to provide under-served children with hands-on learning experiences with nature. In 1998-1999 Mighty Acorns received more than \$350,000 from the Grand Victoria Foundation for program expansion.

Organized more than 900 people for 12 volunteer recruitment events throughout the region as a part of Chicago Wilderness' celebration of National Public Lands Day. Volunteers assisted on stewardship projects such as seed collecting and brush cutting. Chicago area media outlets covered the events in 39 different news articles and radio spots.

Published Chicago Wilderness Magazine, a quarterly magazine that in its third year is distributed among 60 retail locations across the Chicago region and has 7,000 paid subscribers. In addition, 2,700 teachers and libraries across Northeastern Illinois received a copy of the magazine free-of-charge thanks to a grant from the Chicago Community Trust.

NE Pennsylvania Forestry Program

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The Northeast Pennsylvania Forestry Program, located in Scranton is directed by the Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Since 1995, the program has successfully integrated ecological restoration with regional social and economic development by supporting partnership building activities, stewardship and environmental awareness. The funding of 85 projects throughout this post-industrial region has had positive effects on the environment, economic vitality and quality of life.

Major accomplishments of the program are the integration of natural resource enhancements with socioeconomic issues and the use of diverse and nontraditional partners to implement urban forestry projects. Between 1995 and 1998, 707 partners have joined to complete 58 demonstration projects. Projects include the planting of strip mine areas, parks, highways, trails, river corridors, downtown districts, schools and tourist attractions. The fiscal year 1999 funding cycle has provided funding for 27 additional grants that will be completed by October 2000.

Accomplishments 1995 to 1999:

Improved the ecological health of the region by supporting the planting of native vegetation.

Promoted tourism and economic vitality of the area by building a regional arboretum at McDade Park.

Brought national recognition to urban forestry by winning the National Award for Sustainability sponsored by Renew America and the President's Council on Sustainable Development, 1999.

Supported the Northeast Pennsylvania Community Tree Association by providing funding for 9 workshops attended by 760 natural resource professionals, citizens and municipal representatives between 1995 and 1998.

Provided Tree Liability and Assessment grants for the survey of 2,341 urban trees, removal of 719 hazardous trees, pruning of 525 dangerous trees, and replanting of 783 street trees throughout the region between 1997 and 1998.

Supported two Rail Trail projects that span 80 miles along the Lackawanna River by promoting stewardship and educational opportunities, plantings and municipal understanding of natural resource issues.

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1999 URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

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Boston, MA 02201
tel: (617) 635-2518
fax: (617) 635-3435
email: Ali.Noorani@ci.boston.ma.us
[http://www.cityofboston.com/
environment](http://www.cityofboston.com/environment)

Buffalo URP

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Chicago URP

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East St. Louis URP

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New York City URP

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Philadelphia URP

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<http://www.libertynet.org/purp>

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Special Projects

Asian Longhorned Beetle - Chicago

Gina Childs, Dennis Haugen
St. Paul, MN 55108
tel: (651) 649-5296
fax: (651) 649-5238
[http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu/
asianbeetle/beetle.htm](http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu/asianbeetle/beetle.htm)

District of Columbia Initiative

Gracie Joy
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Franklin Court Building, Suite 5500W
1099 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-3402
tel: (202) 273-4753
fax: (202) 273-4750
e-mail: gjoy/na@fs.fed.us

The Kiski Basin & Environs Initiative

Rob McCombie
Conemaugh Valley Conservancy
P.O. Box 115
Windber, PA 15963
tel: (814) 467-6816
fax: (814) 467-8715
email: mccombie@surfshop.net

Revitalizing Baltimore

Guy W. Hager
Parks & People Foundation
2600 Madison Avenue
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tel: (410) 396-0198
fax: (410) 396-7861
e-mail: Guyhager@aol.com
web: [http://baltimore.umbc.edu/lter/
gfatlas](http://baltimore.umbc.edu/lter/gfatlas)

New York City Watersheds and New York-New Jersey Highlands

Marcus Phelps
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20 Route 23
Franklin, NJ 07416
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Congressional Initiatives

Chicago Wilderness

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DePaul University

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GreenStreets

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Mayor Daley's Green Streets Program
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Northeast Pennsylvania Forestry Program

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1999 URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

Budget Summary

Federal financial assistance presented by program component for fiscal year 1995 to 1999.

	<i>Dollars in thousands</i>				
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
State Grants					
Connecticut	194.5	229.7	213.2	208.3	204.1
Delaware	163.7	174.7	170.5	168.3	166.6
District of Columbia ¹	286.8	218.0	218.5	344.2	234.0
Illinois	357.5	438.8	397.5	364.9	329.3
Indiana	272.1	299.3	275.2	261.3	253.3
Iowa ¹	218.2	251.2	225.7	232.4	261.4
Maine ¹	192.0	230.5	212.8	205.9	200.9
Maryland	394.7	320.5	265.7	260.6	244.5
Massachusetts	297.2	288.9	256.0	267.7	243.6
Michigan	262.3	362.5	316.5	311.2	285.1
Minnesota	264.5	268.3	258.2	235.1	223.6
Missouri	380.9	299.5	263.9	259.2	241.5
New Hampshire ¹	195.9	196.5	208.7	196.5	181.3
New Jersey	746.1	328.7	314.1	289.9	272.4
New York ¹	442.2	593.9	544.1	478.9	461.8
Ohio ¹	355.6	418.5	375.2	348.7	344.6
Pennsylvania ¹	512.1	629.5	569.4	656.5	494.2
Rhode Island ¹	212.4	170.7	204.3	163.1	201.0
Vermont ¹	220.6	185.7	190.3	179.3	176.7
West Virginia	226.0	242.5	229.1	220.6	214.4
Wisconsin	330.0	285.8	280.4	239.3	231.4
SUBTOTAL	6470.3	6433.7	5989.3	5891.9	5465.7
Direct Financial and Technical Assistance²					
Focus Funding	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	165.0
Technical Assistance	1588.8	938.8	869.6	1064.2	1157.9
1998 Ice Storm	0.0	0.0	0.0	3999.4	8589.0
Centers of Excellence	200.0	250.0	250.0	250.0	250.0
SUBTOTAL	1788.8	1188.8	1119.6	5313.6	10161.9
Urban Resource Partnerships					
Boston, MA	0.0	0.0	200.0	150.0	150.0
Buffalo, NY	0.0	0.0	50.0	150.0	150.0
Chicago, IL	265.0	250.0	250.0	150.0	100.0
East St. Louis, IL	250.0	250.0	250.0	150.0	150.0
New York City, NY	510.0	671.5	400.0	300.0	100.0
Philadelphia, PA	250.0	250.0	250.0	150.0	150.0
SUBTOTAL	1275.0	1421.5	1400.0	1050.0	800.0
Special Projects and Congressional Initiatives					
National UCF Council Grants	395.0	454.7	616.7	434.9	623.1
Kiski Basin Initiative, PA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	164.0
Revitalizing Baltimore, MD	494.0	390.0	300.0	300.0	300.0
Regional/National Initiatives ³	150.0	215.0	225.0	275.0	79.0
Asian Longhorned Beetle	0.0	0.0	500.0	0.0	500.0
Chicago GreenStreets	1126.0	700.0	350.0	350.0	700.0
Chicago Wilderness	0.0	700.0	700.0	700.0	350.0
DePaul University, IL	0.0	0.0	350.0	350.0	350.0
NE Pennsylvania Project, PA	500.0	0.0	1127.0	1250.0	1500.0
SUBTOTAL	2665.0	2459.7	4168.7	3659.9	4566.1
TOTAL	13439.1	11480.5	12556.7	15750.2	20993.7

Notes: ¹ Includes supplemental support in 1999 - funds provided to third-party recipients with State concurrence.

² Includes costs associated with Area and Field Office staff, travel, supplies, training.

³ Regional/National Initiatives - NYC Watershed, NY/NJ Highlands, DC Initiative and others.

